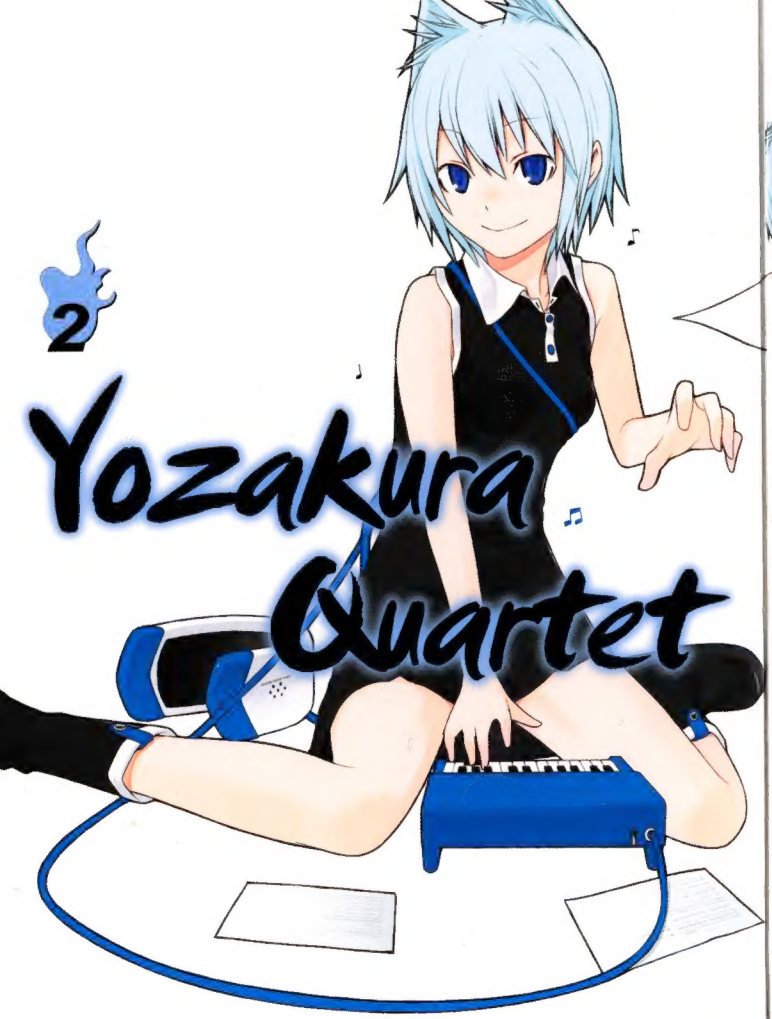

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Yozakura Quartet 2

Suzuhito Yasuda

Ballantine Books

DEL REY

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Yozakura Quartet

2

Suzuhito Yasuda

Translated by Satsuki Yamashita
Adapted by Nunzio DeFilippis and Christina Weir
Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

DEL REY
Ballantine Books · New York

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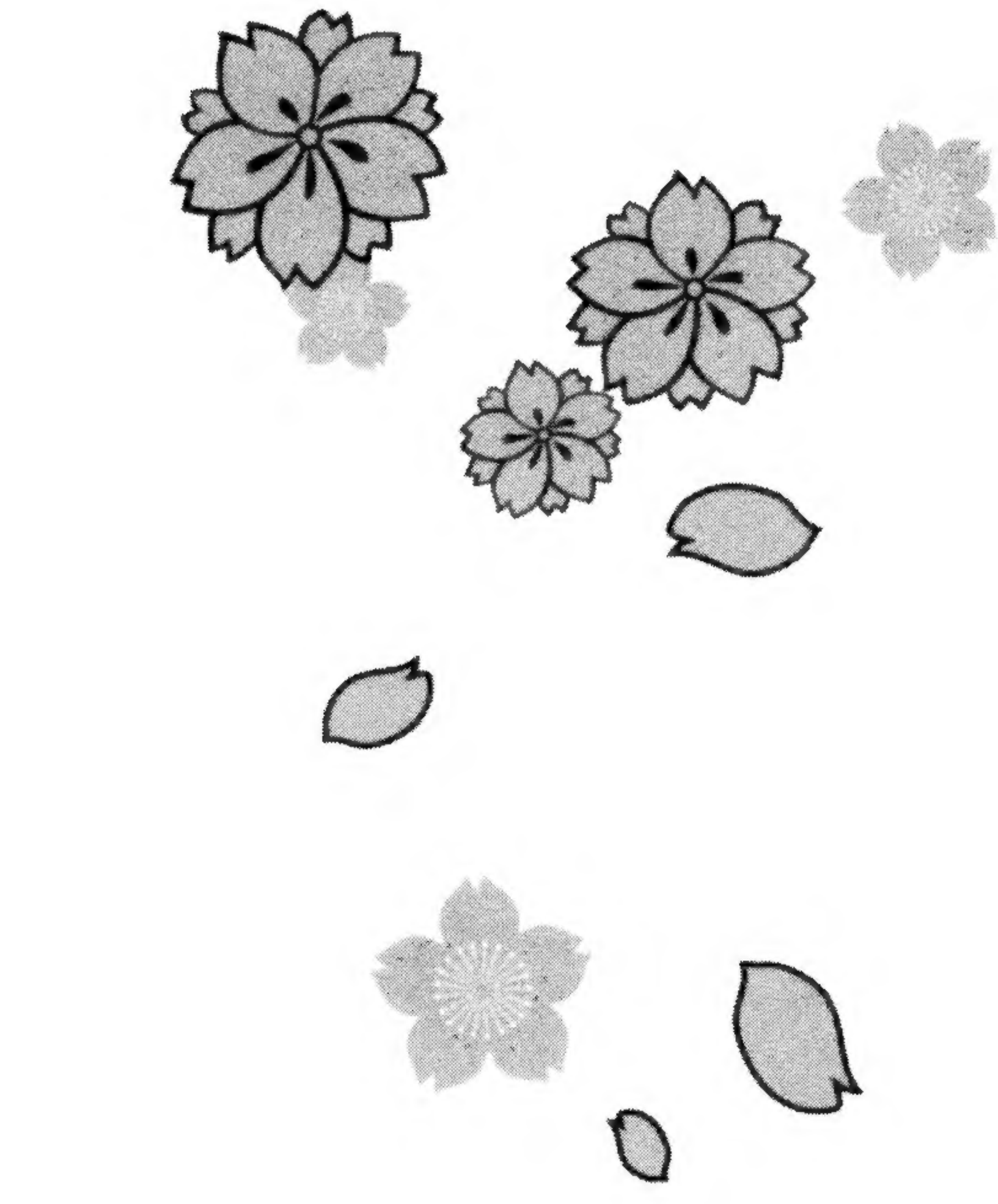
A Note from the Author

It seems that time has flown
since the first volume, but six months
have passed. Even if life is long, six months
is still a big chunk of it. I hope that I'm
better than I was six months ago.

Suzuhito Yasuda



Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Yozakura Quartet 2

Suzuhito Yasuda

CHARACTER PROFILE

Hime Yarizakura

Hime is the mayor of Sakurashin Town. She is in high school. She has superhuman abilities.

Ao Nanami

An employee of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office, she is a satori, a demon who can read others' minds.

Kana Tatebayashi

Shidou Mizuki

Kyosuke Kishi

Mina Tatebayashi

WAAAH

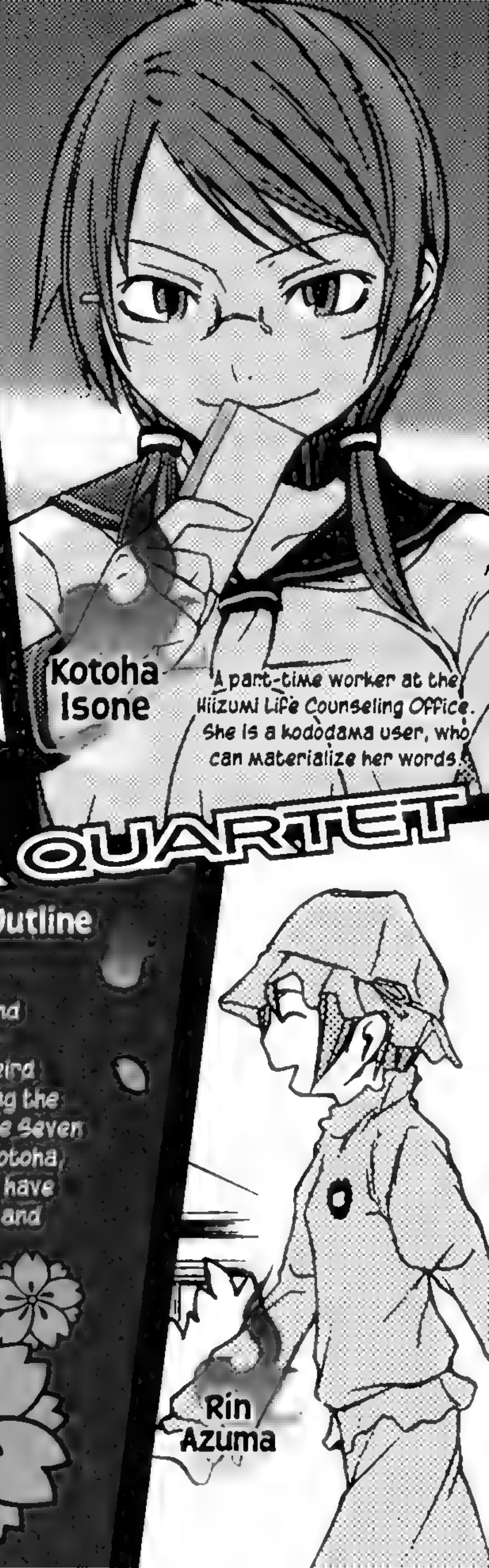
YOZAKURA QUARTET

Outline

Sakurashin Town is a town full of demons and cherry blossoms. The four who face the weird incidents surrounding the spiritual sakura, the Seven Pillars, are: Hime, Kotona, Ao, and Akina. They have days with trouble and days without.

Akina Hiizumi

The director of the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office, he is a normal human who faces the weird incidents that occur in his town.



Kotoha Isone

A part-time worker at the Hiizumi Life Counseling Office. She is a kododama user, who can materialize her words.

V
Juri
F

Rin Azuma

Yozakura Quartet Contents

005 ..... Moving Forward (Part 1)
037 ..... Moving Forward (Part 2)
065 ..... Moving Forward (Part 3)
103 ..... Your Name Is
125 ..... Cherish the Moment
147 ..... Thorny Road (Part 1)
180 ..... Extras

I'm hungry!
I'm hungry!

Waaaaah!

She ate two hours ago.

Argh, shut up! Get something, Kyosuke!!

NOODLES!!!

NOODLES!!

NOODLES...

Someone order something!

STOMP

STOMP

STOMP

Modern BBQ History
Thomas McCoy

Argh!

FLAP

Use the pummel of death!!

FamiTsu

PLIP

PLIP

PLIP

We've worked enough for the day.

And you two! Get back to work!

So everyone better show up!

In order to shape up, we're cleaning up the office tomorrow!

You guys are slacking off!

I also have stuff to do...

Various stuff...

The one Hime ruined.

I'm leaving for Germany tomorrow!

I had them reissue my ticket.

Huh? What?

Huh?

Tomorrow's not good.

Hime-sama has a district meeting.

Everyone?

BITE BITE ガジ ガジ

Really?

6th Night: Moving Forward (Part 1)

SQUEAK

I wonder if I'm too easy on them.

It's fine because I like to clean, but...

I ended up cleaning all by myself...

SHINE
SHINE

...Hey.

Oh? Hey, Kyosuke.

PEEK

CLICK

Can I have some coffee?

Yeah.

Sure.

No babysitters.

Oh yeah, it's a special meeting, so you can't be there.

Don't call me a babysitter.

SIP

YAY

HEE HEE

WOO HOO

YEAH

...

I see.

Nope.

How about you, Kyosuke?

...Oh yeah, I haven't eaten yet.

13"

DAZED

Should I help?

It's cool.

Okay.

I'll make something.

You'll eat, too, right?

Yeah.

Thanks.

ぎゅっ

SQUEEZE

...

What should I make?

Don't force yourself.

But...

Thanks.

Mm...your cooking is always good.

It's nice and juicy.

MUNCH MUNCH

...Thanks.

Look at this masterpiece!

Eat up!

Beef Bowl

WOO HOO

YEAH

.....

But sheesh...

...it's really quiet without those rowdy three.

Huh?

What,

You're lonely?

KNOCK

KNOCK

GRIP

Okay.

HMMM...

Touka!!

Oh,
hey.

I came
to visit.

PEEK

Hello...

Ugh...

Oh.

Hee hee hee.

ZWISH

Er...

Why are you...I told you not to go out!!

TA-DA

Aaaaghh! Shhh!

Kyo-chan only talks about Touka-chan during confession.

Oh?

I'M accompanying her..

Do you have a problem with that, Kyo-chan?

Yae-san!

Oh, right.

I did it again...

Touka-chan, your leg...

Oh. I heard that it's only you and Akina-san today...

FLAP
ばさ

Touka!

.....

Why are you here?

It'll be better by next week anyway...

Hee hee.

GLANCE
ちら

But...

...so I brought food.

It's beef bowl.

It's not that good though.

Okay.

I'll take it.

Thanks for bringing it.

ごくん GULP

He's already eating one.

And it looks better than mine.

MUNCH MUNCH もぐもぐ

DOWNHEARTED しょぼん…

ぱぁぁ SHINE

Oh...you're welcome!

ニヤニヤ SMIRK SMIRK

It's a lot.

Here you go!

MUNCH
MUNCH
MUNCH

Hurry!

If it gets cold, it'll taste worse!

THUMP

...

All right, Touka-chan.

Oh... okay!

Worse!

SHINE

Thank you for the food.

Oh. You should've told me.

Huh?

Oh yeah.

We should go eat, too.

Um, no.

You guys didn't eat yet?

Akina-san's food...

You're going to make us food!?

Really?

You came all the way here, so take your time.

I'll make something then.

Touka-chan, you're drooling.

MUNCH MUNCH

...

Sure!

Just wait a bit.

TWITCH

BLUSH

Aren't you glad, Touka-chan?

Your favorite Akina is making your lunch!

GRIP

...it's not like I'M...

SWING SWING

あたふた PANIC

あたふた PANIC

Oh, Yae-san...

...I
Mean...

SWING

Damn...

DASH

You...

GRAB

Akina!!

VOOSH

WHIP

Urgh!

Huh?

CRASH

Akina!!

CLANG
ガ
CLANG ラ
ガ
ラ

Uh...

I'm fine,
I'm fine.

CLANK
ガ

It was a little close though.

I'm used to it because of Hime and Kotoha.

Don't worry about it.

I'm so sorry! I'm so sorry! I...

ぺこん HOP ぺこん HOP

Akina-san!

PHEW

ぺこん HOP ぺこん HOP

Your powers can't be ontrolled, even with that "shackle" on you!

Shut up!!

It's okay. I'm fine.

Kyo-suke.

Touka! That's why I told you not to go out!

Don't forget it!

You're... We're...

"Demons!"

Urh...

This mess.

That's enough. We should clean up.

Oh...

Uh, okay.

SNIFF

I'll help, too.

Forget it!

Just go home! What if you cause more trouble?

Good-bye...

No...I'm fine...

I'll come back another day to apologize...

TICK TICK TICK

Oh.

I'll walk you home, Touka-chan.

...It's fine.

CLINK

Kyosuke.

I think you were too harsh.

IN A BI...

THUNP

It's fine.

Oh!
It's Makiharu gramps.

Yeah.

Hiizumi Life Counseling Office

SST

Makiharu gramps was very awesome!

He was always, but especially when he was "oyakume!"

Yeah...

CLINK

チャリ…

…

Hanitsuka

My stupid power...

HOP

HOP

.....

Hey, Touka!

Oh, Kana-chan and Mina-chan?

You're coming back from kindergar-ten?

Don't be so rude, Mina...

Why do you look so blue?

Did Akina dump you?

There they are.

They always leave me, even when I'm only a bit late.

Ah.

He's late! So we just left without him.

I thought Shidou-san picks you up.

VROOM

VWOOOSH

!

BOOM

SCREEEEEECH

Huh?

Huh?

Huh?

The car is moving on its own!

VRROOOOOOMM

And the brakes don't work!!

OOOM

KLUNK

KLUNK

!

VRROOOOOOOM

OOOOM

Please Move out of the Waaaaaaay!

OOOM

SQUEEZE

OW!

WOOSH

CRACK

CRASH

CRACK CRACK

That sound...

SLIDE

!

BUZZ

BUZZ

Touka!

DASH

!

Touka! Are you okay!?

Ugh...

Onii-chan...

Uh...

Call an ambulance! Hurry!!

DASH

Hey, is everything all right?

GLARE

If only...

TUG

GRIND

Er...!

I can't take this anymore...

DRIP

DRIP

DRIP

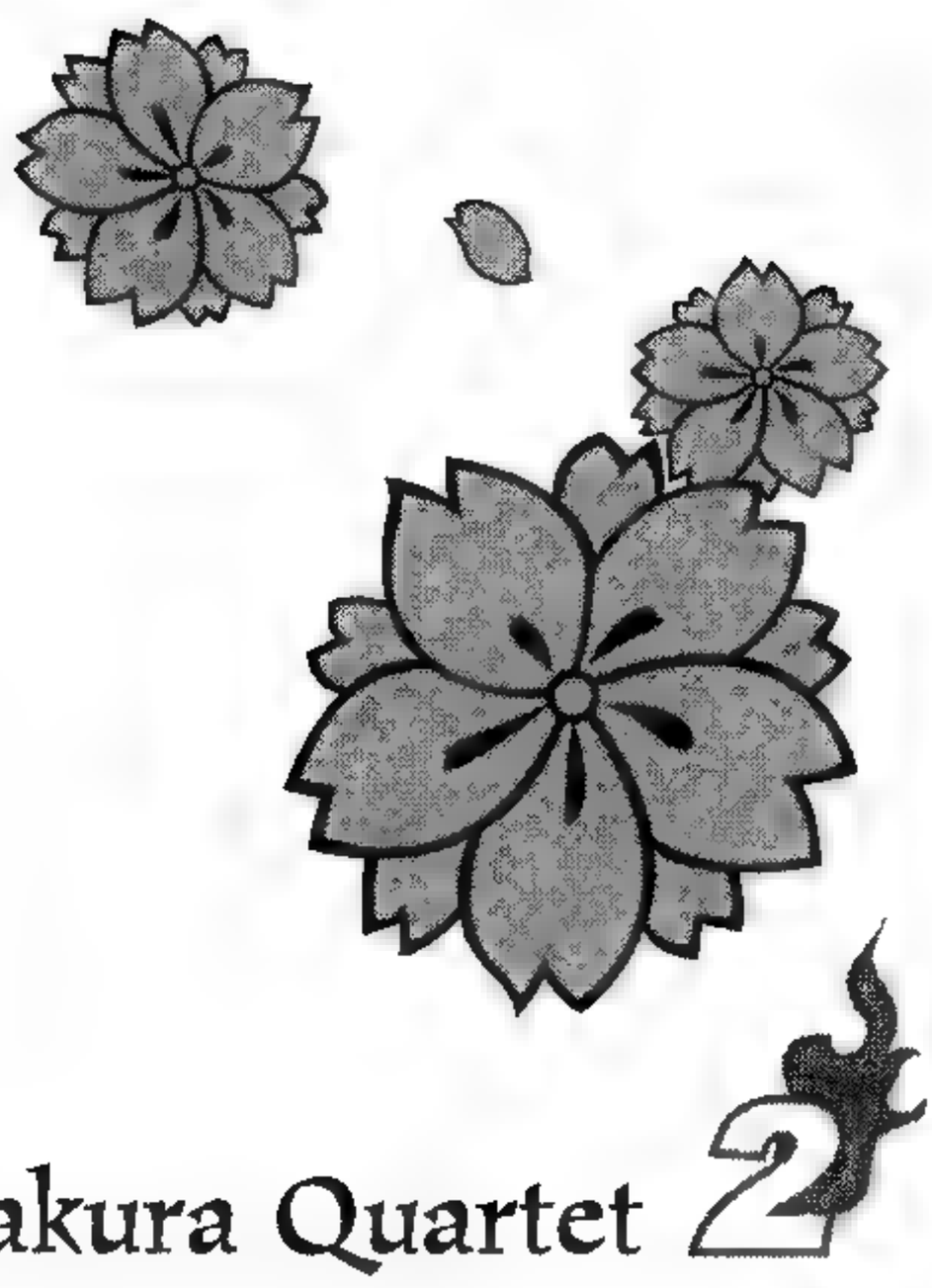
I don't want this power...

OW!

THUD

...you would succeed as "oyakume"...

...Touka wouldn't suffer!!



Yozakura Quartet 2

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

2

Kyosuke Kishi

Age: 18

Hobbies:
reading

Favorites

Food:
beef bowl

Music Group:
Eldar Djangirov

Comedian:
Chidori

Uchi-P Member:
Fukawa

Little-Known Fact:
He is from Okayama.

We won't die just from that.

We're not like humans!

Idiot!

I just lost it...

That's right...

Oh.

We should just be glad we're all safe.

Yeah?

Now, now.

Ouch!

SQUEAK!

All of this happened because of you!

SQUEAK

SQUEAK

You think us vampires are that weak!? Eh?

Urg...

Sure.

Can I have more blood?

It's weird. The brakes and wheel just didn't work all of a sudden.

MUMBLE MUMBLE

Where's Akina and Kyosuke?

It's because you came charging at us with your car! You should be maintaining the car better! Idiot!

GRRR

GRRR

Sorry...

They finally calmed down.

They're in the waiting room.

...

7th Night: Moving Forward (Part 2)

.....

.....

Are you guys done?

...are suffering in this town just because you won't succeed as "oyakume"!?

Stop it.

How many demons do you think...

Akina!

...the issue about "oyakume" now...

There's no point bringing up...

CREAK!

Urgh...

We're trying to rest!

Shut up!!

Stop it, Kyosuke-kun...

Kyo-chan.

If he would only...

You guys are suffering, too, right?

...Urg.

...cut your tongue?

Should I...

CUT

THUMP

I'm going home.

Oh...

We should leave, too, Touka.

Oh. Okay.

Onii-chan...

THUMP

I'll be off, too.

Take care of them, Juri.

Got it.

Oh?

You both don't know yet?

Right...

...Hey, Shidou.

What's "oyakume"?

It regards this town, too.

Where should I start?

I guess it's time to tell both of them about it.

Yeah.

?

Did you ever wonder why that's so?

SSSIIIPP

Why...

The number of demons is enormously high.

There are many demons living in this town, right?

...come to Sakurashin Town...

All the demons...

...for one purpose.

It's easy to live for demons because there are so many?

You're smart.

Well, that's true, too.

Purpose?

SSIPP

Besides...

...are creatures that live in a different dimension from this dimension.

...demons...

In a place called "afterworld."

After-world!?

But since they're in different dimensions, they can't recognize each other's existence.

The residents of this world and the afterworld live in the same world.

Let's see...

Right.

But even if so they can't recognize us either.

?

So there might be someone right here at this very moment!?

Yes, we exist...

that's the problem.

But... we're demons, but we're in this world.

Yeah, that's right!

...are irregular existences...

...who live outside of this world's logic.

Us... the demons living in this world...

...our powers become unsteady.

Like Touka-chan.

Since we live in a dimension we shouldn't be in...

Irregular...

!!

...is the concept of death.

And the biggest difference between this world and the afterworld...

That's not good!

Our life, as the humans call it, ends.

In the afterworld demons don't die. But in this world we eventually weaken and face death.

Oh, thanks.

Here you go.

You're prepared.

When there's static on the radio, you tune it to make it clear, right?

Yeah.

That's the basic idea.

And so, that's where the "oyakume" comes in.

Oh. I see!

That is what the Hiizumi family's been doing for generations.

The person who succeeds it is the "oyakume."

"Tuning" is done to match the demons living in this world to the afterworld.

Yeah, tell us!

But what does it have to do with this town?

I get the "oyakume."

.....

...can't be done just anywhere.

Tuning...

A marker...

You need a "marker" that exists both in this world and the afterworld.

That's right.

...Oh!

Landmark?

And that marker is this town's landmark. Can you guess what it is?

The seven spiritual sakura that exists in both dimensions,

the Seven Pillars.

Sakurashin Town is surrounded by those pillars.

...

HOP HOP

PAT PAT

My foot hurts. Carry me.

What's wrong, Touka?

STOP

Carry me.

What are you saying? Let's go.

Just do it.

I used to get picked on as a kid... and you always carried me home. Remember?

Yeah?

Onii-chan.

...

Just like this...

Don't pick on me!

We won't!

GRRROOOOAAARR

Don't make stuff up!

I don't have memories of that!

Darn...

But Akina-san wasn't scared of you and played with you.

It was more like fighting than playing.

You had a hard time controlling your powers as a kid, too.

And you didn't have that many friends.

...

Did you ever think about it?

Huh?

Hey, Onii-chan.

...

♪~

The meaning of what the "oyakume" carries...

...So you're really okay with it?

I can't cause any more trouble.

To the residents of this town, and also to Hime.

Please watch her for me.

Don't worry. She's almost stronger than you.

You're so strong. You want to do it while Hime is sleeping?

She's going to cry. She won't let me do it.

She's only pretending. Please take care of her, Akina-kun.

...I will.

I will.

Take it one at a time.

I think I understand, but I'm not sure yet.

Hmmm.

...

But what is it? What exactly happens?

You call it tuning.

PLOP

So, Shidou.

I have one question.

SST

...That's easy.

They disappear.

From this dimension... From this world.

...but their connection to this dimension is cut off.

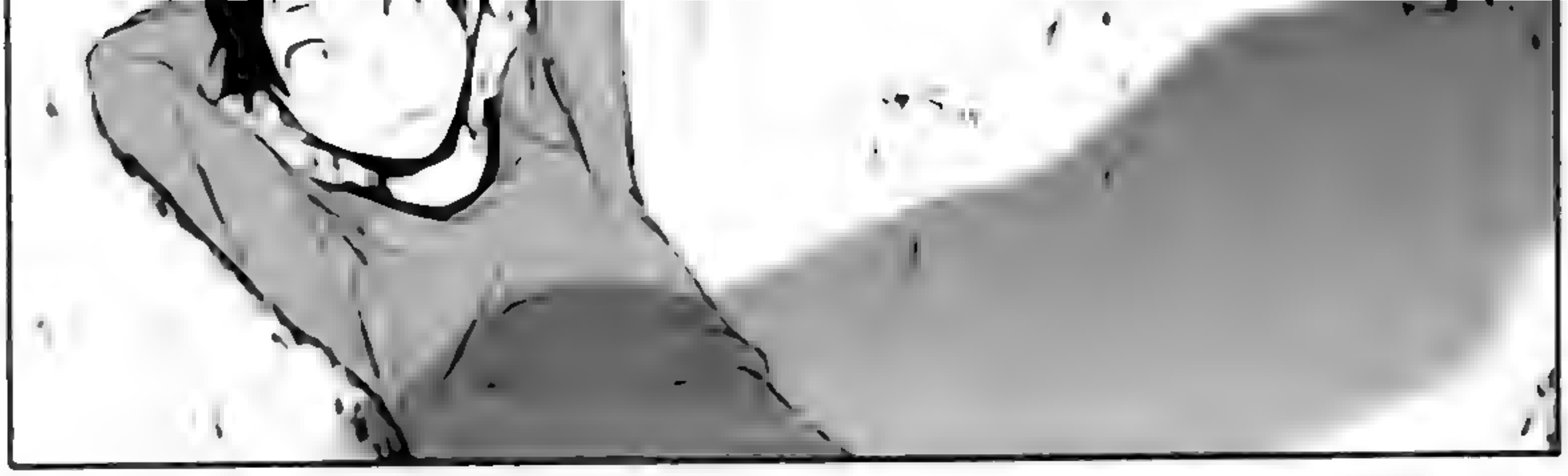
They could live normally in the other dimension...

!

That's why the Hiizumi family calls the "oyakume"...

...."killers."

That's how they see it.



Are you
ditching?
RIN

Hey,
Rin-chan.
Yes?

Yep. I'm
ditching.
Then I'll
join you!

We had bad experiences elsewhere, so we all came here.

.....

Of course! Everyone came for that reason.

Did you come to this town to go to the afterworld?

PLOP

The town where we die.

For us demons, this town is the end of the road.

Do you...want to go to the afterworld? Or not?

.....

But, after we live here for a while, we don't want to leave.

You already should know the answer!

=

GRIN

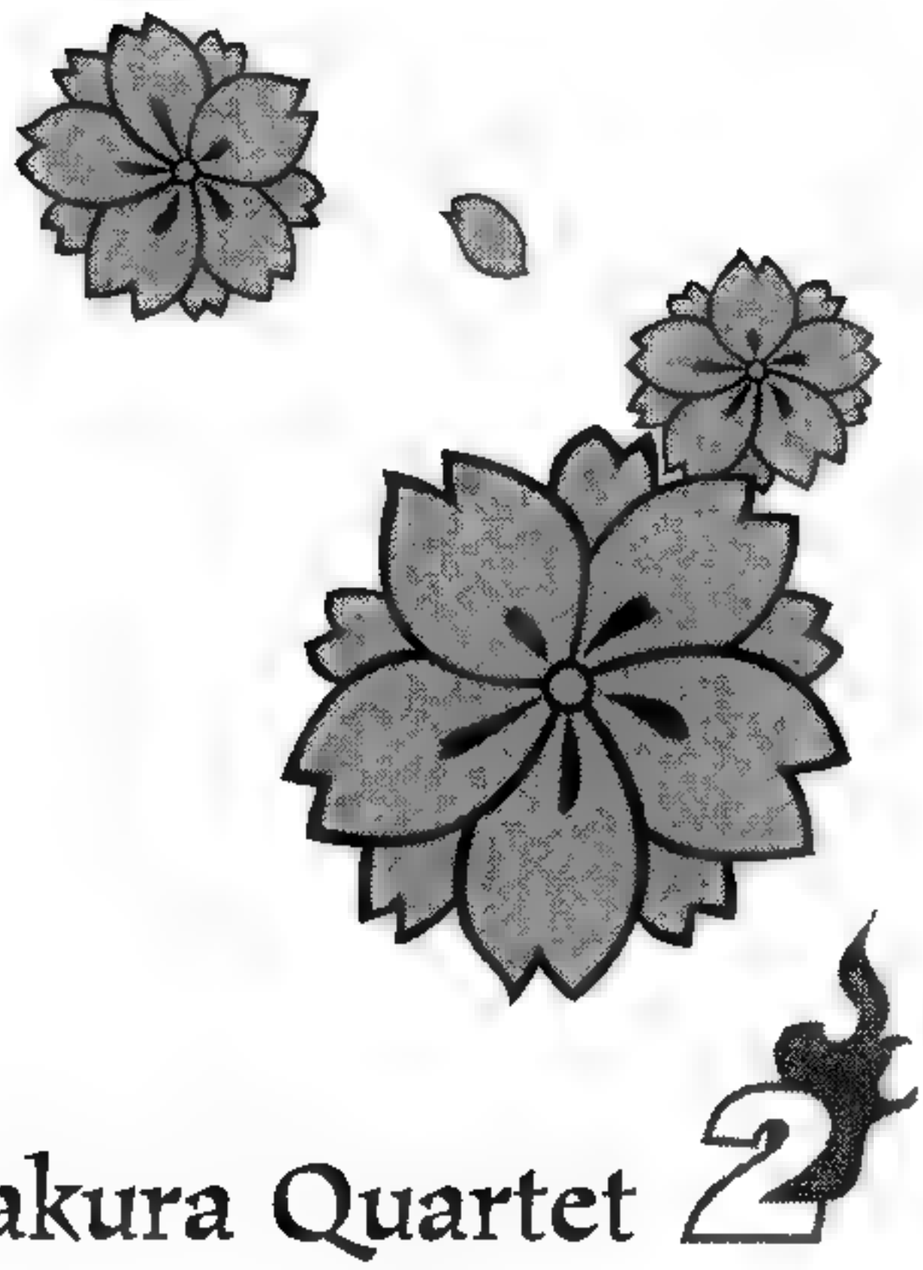
. . . . . .

Oh. . . . . .

I see.

Thanks for your precious opinion.

7th Night: Moving Forward (Part 2) END



Yozakura Quartet 2

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet 2

Touka Kishi

She's the one who changed the most from the primary stages.

Age: 16

Hobbies:
archery, listening to music

Favorites

Food:
beef bowl

Music Group:
ROCO

Comedian:
Chidori

Uchi-P Member:
Golgo

Little-Known Fact:
She is from Okayama.

...is about getting involved with others.

Living...

You might still be too young to understand.

Yeah.

And the severance of that connection with others is "death." That's what I think.

By getting involved with others, "proof that you lived" is created.

Then let me ask you this.

.....

Are you prepared to kill people?

8th Night: Moving Forward (Part 3)

Hey, Aki-chan!

It's time for your health check!

You didn't do it yet this month.

Oh, right.

Phew.

We should've done it at the hospital.

Where's Kyosuke?

He went home.

With Touka-chan and Yae.

PIT

PAT

ZZZZ

Okay.

Every-thing is fine.

Every-thing's fine?

Okay, done.

Everything is fine!

CLASP

Phew

To do what?

Then I'm going.

Thanks, Juri-san.

To get angry!

?

.....

He's about to say something he's not supposed to!

はっ

GASP

Touka, you know...

PANT PANT

You said it!

ボカ

BONK

BONK

You're heavy...

Did you gain weight?

Whoa.

ズル

SLIP

Why would it weigh so much?

ボカ ボカ BONK

BONK

This is because my cast weighs about 70 kg*!

Aagh!

ROLL ROLL ROLL

Oh, my.

WOBBLE WOBBLE

*150 lbs

Kyosuke!

ハァ…

TAKE

OUT

Yo.

How dare you slug me!

Did you forget that you owe me for picking on you when we were kids?

I owe you nothing!

Akina!

Besides!

PAT PAT

DIT DIT

Onii-chan, calm down!

You also beat me up earlier... so we're even. Besides, what I owe you is not gratitude. It's revenge!

You have sister complex!

SMIRK ニヤ

I see...

It's not just us! The other demons, too!

U

If you would just succeed as "oyakume," Touka and I could live happily in the afterworld!

ムカ!

GRR!

Here.

SLIDE

DODGE

FLID

Urgh!

TURN

VWOOSH

YOU...!

Hey, Kyosuke.

Damn it...!

GRIP

You know, whoever said...

VWOOSH

...that I didn't succeed as "oyakume?"

But you never...

Hmph.

What?

CRACKLE

Noo!

I could send her there now.

Did you want me to try it here, then?

Oh!

GRAB

Okay. First off...

...take off your shackle!

Hold it! Calm down!

I am calm. If you want me to hold it, then do as I say.

...What?

...?

...?

THUMP

CLICK

Just hurry it up!

But if I take it off, My powers are going to be released. Is that okay?

...Slug me with all you've got!!

WHIP

I took it off.

Good.

Then...

Every kid would be scared of our powers and wouldn't come close.

But you would always come by and pick on us!

I don't get it!

...

Ugh. He never makes any sense!

?

?

?

Huh?

You were always like that!

...and give it to me. Or are you scared of the pay-back?

FLICK

FLICK

You sister complex bastard!

GRR!

And now you want me to slug you with my demon power?

Be serious! A human body won't be able to take it...

Just shut up...

ドドア

VOOSH

YOU...!!

WHACK

Ow!!

Uh, Akina?

.....

HESITATING

おず

ピク

TWITCH

ピク

TWITCH

ドド#

GASP

THUMP

Oops...

Uh, it actually looks really painful...

Are you okay?

I'm telling you it doesn't hurt!

WAKE UP

It doesn't hurt!!

!

Akina-san!

Uh...

WOBBLE

Listen. Your powe aren't a that anyw You don need tuni

If I can't handle it on my own...

...then...

Why do you think we have the office?

If it's this weak, even if something happens I'd take care of it!

.....

Got it?

...I'll send you to the afterworld with my own hands!!

"WISH"

Hmph!

Right?

...isn't it easier to send us there rather than protecting us?

But...

I don't want to say good-bye to any of the demons in this town.

To anyone!

This is my selfish reason!!

...

I'M saying I want to be with every-one...

ヤ ッ ヘ

WOBBLE

What?

Onii-chan, what are you saying!?

You're just saying that because you don't want to part with Touka!

But I'M not going to approve of it!

HMPH

Hey!

...and that includes you, idiot!

WHACK

Ah, that felt good!

Onii-chan!

THUD

BRIGHT RED

PFOOSH

Uh...

What if some Mistake happened!?

I won't forgive you for pretending to tune Touka.

Urgh... but still.

Ooh! I said it!

If I become damaged goods,

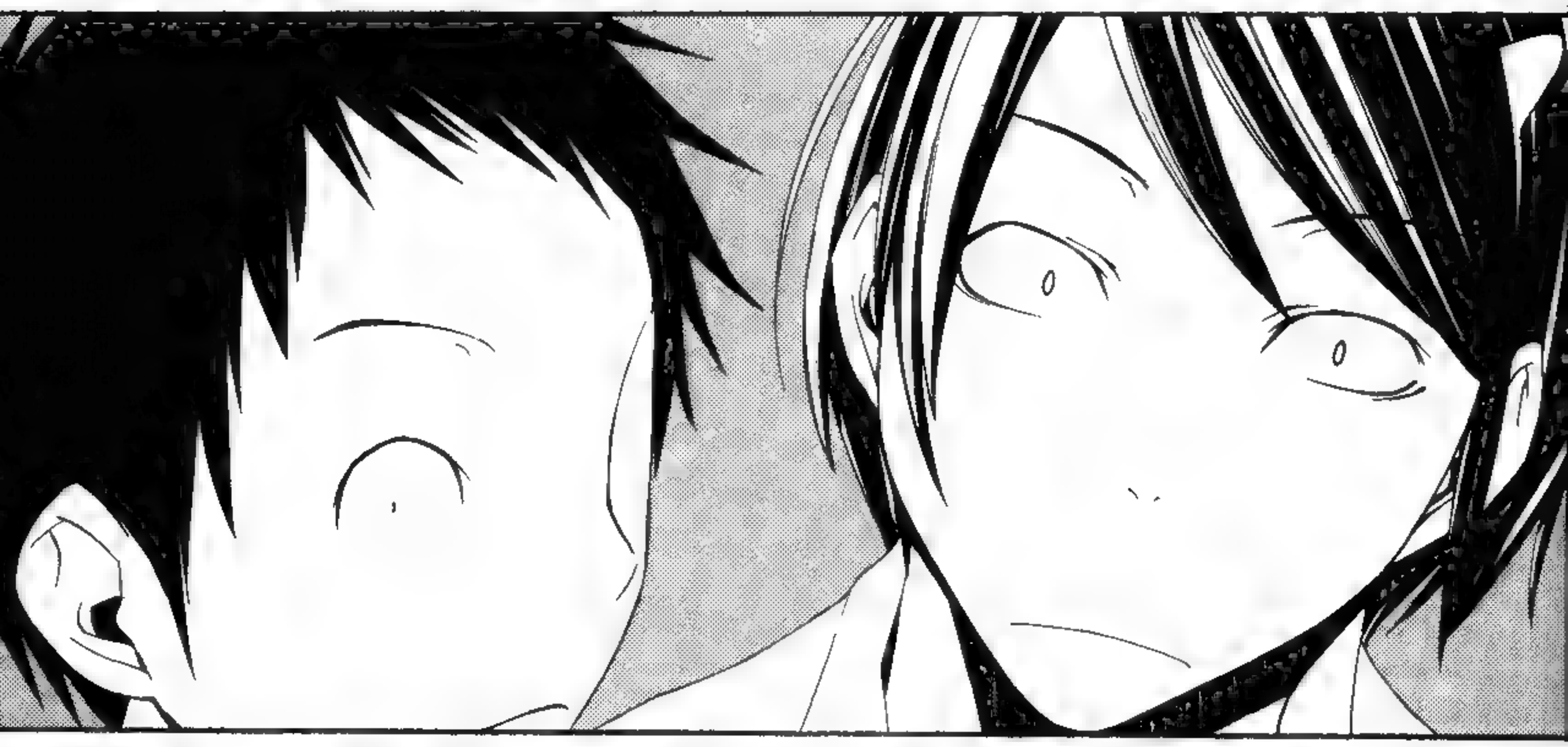
please take responsibility for it!!

TA-DA

When that happens...

GULP

UM



I see...

GULP

WOBBLE

Uh, Touka-chan?

POW
ボカ
Oh no...
KAPOW
ボカ
Just leave them.
RRROOOAAARRR
ゴ"
ゴ"
ゴ"
CRACKLE CRACKLE
It seems that you've gotten far with my sister, eh?
You're scary!
You're much scarier than before!!
So that's what this is all about.
...
He could already control his powers.
Akina believed in him and let him slug him.
There's no way Akina could be okay getting hit by demon powers.
Huh?

HONK

Thank you very much!

Hey!

Well, it's still a little danger-ous.

Maybe we'll make a new shackle that doesn't strain the body so much.

Right, Juri?

Oh...

Okay.

I can't handle them on my own...

Loaned car

Juri-san! Those two are making a fuss. Can you come back?

PUT

PUT

PUT

KUNK

KUNK

HM?

SHOCK

The brakes and wheel don't work.

KUNK

KUNK

So that means...

SCREECH

VROOOOM

Not again!!

Gee whiz.

SST

"Fresh Spring."

What a troublemaker.

"Spring Breeze."

VOOSH

"Fresh Spring Breeze."

WOOOSH

WOOSH

Here.

WOOSH

Whoa.

KLUNK

RROOOAAARRR

Whoa.

Whoa.

THUD

THUD

CRASH

THUD

CHINK

Can you stop getting controlled so easily?

Beware of "cat burgulars."

Uh... huh?

I'm sorry...

Oh, it's this late already?

If you do it again, I'll slice you up. ♡

SLINK

SLINK

I'm really sorry! I'll be careful.

And I'm returning to the hospital.

I have a promise with my brother to eat dinner.

See you.

Oh, okay.

Thank you!

Bye!

They're so scary...

Yeah

We should go home too

...

...

I don't want a fox to call me a cat burglar...

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

Until that time comes...

Well, it's good to at least know that he succeeded as "oyakume."

CRACKLE

...don't let the Hiizumi blood die.

CRACKLE

District Mayor Agency Conference Room #7
Routine Special Meeting

Let me read aloud.

Until I arrive, self-study under my secretary...

"I am going to eat with my sister first, so I will be late.

...respectfully."

.....

That ends the Message from the District Mayor.

So...

TREMBLE

TREMBLE

Why are you making a fuss?

Self-study? Is this a high school!? Eh!?

You can't be serious!!

...please start studying.

Damn it. Everyone's messing with me...

MUMBLE MUMBLE

I had a valid reason...hey! Why are you really self-studying?

Because I have homework.

That's right, shut up! You were late, too.

WRITE WRITE

I told you to shut up!

What!?

...and what's this news about a nine-year-old going against me for mayor next month!?

The District Mayor is irresponsible, there is a high school girl mayor...

This district is weird! Right?

And let me predict something.

!

...will lose to that nine-year-old.

You...

WHACK
WHACK
ARGH
ARGH
プカー
FOO
カチッ
KLINK
COUGH
COUGH
My throat hurts.
It's a Medical cigarette.
This is gross!
Oh, District Mayor.
Smoking isn't good for your health.
フッ
PLOP
By the way, Mariabell...
You don't have to stop them?
Let them fight.
They don't get along anyway.

I think I asked for a maid outfit, not Gothic Lolita.

This isn't it?

Well, it's fine.

...what's up with your outfit?

ぱちくり
BLINK

I dressed as you requested.

?

I'll enjoy that for tonight.

All right.

District Mayor
Yuhi Shinatsuhiko

I'M HOME!

A week later

TA-DA

Germany was so fun!!

Aloha!

Not German

Uh... huh?

FLIP

What happened while I was gone?

Then I will check the daily log!

German soil is made of gunpowder.

Really!?

It's going to get rowdy again...

Oh well.

There were no cases?

HMM.

What is this? There's nothing written in here.

BLANK

You're right...

Huh? By the way...

Yeah, nothing happened.

I see...

Nothing happened!

Right?

GRIN

You said you had stuff to do.

Ao, what were you doing?

...

Huh?

Kotoha was in Germany.

With my low pay.

...that day, Hime had a meeting.

It's work.

sst

Me? I was...

So it was something stupid!!

You were ditching!

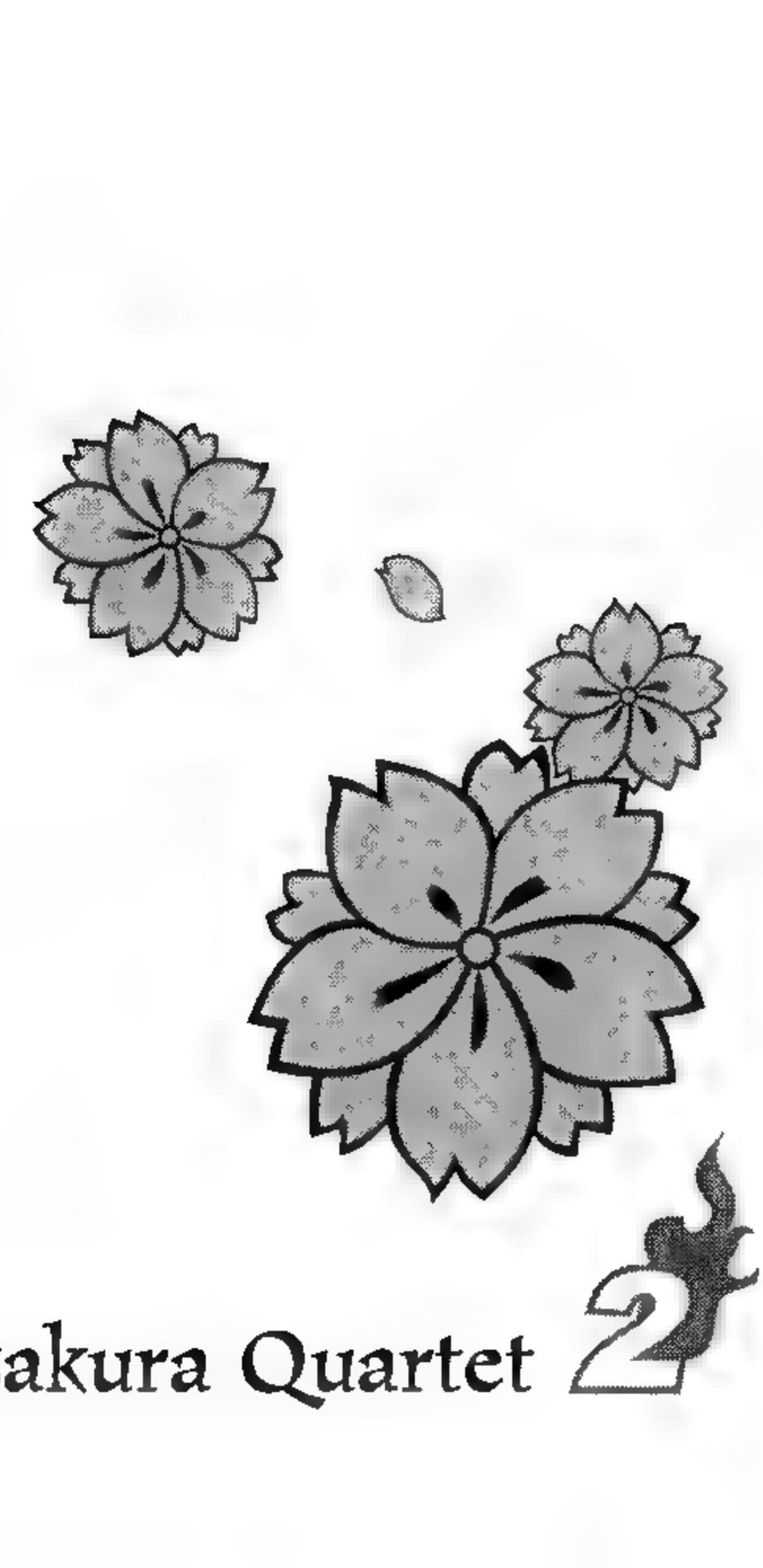
And a headband.

...out buying summer clothes.

ﾌﾌﾌ

sst

8th Night: Moving Forward (Part 3) END



Yozakura Quartet 2

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

2

Akina

In "oyakume" mode

A new demon resident?

Yes, I know about it.

Can you take care of her?

Sure.

...

It's unusual for you to come directly.

Come back to me in five years.

I thought I'd get dibs on her.

I'll take care of you then.

Sir!

Heh, heh. I'm just kidding.

Then I'm leaving it up to you.

Sheesh!

...

FLINCH

LET GO

Oh...

Then, let's go.

SST

Let's go.

...

That was...

That was the day cherry blossoms first bloomed for that year.

...Spring two years ago.

9th Night: Your Name Is

Anyway, so that's the deal.

You should live in this town for a while,

...before you think about tuning and stuff.

In this town?

Yup.

If something comes up, you can come to this office for help.

.....

Are you an employee of this office?

Me?

No, I'm the mayor.

This is a privately owned company.

Huh? The door's open...oh, it's you, Hime.

Stop hanging out here!!

BUZZ
BUZZ

Hello, Hime-sama.

The employees are...oh, maybe they're back.

CLICK
CLICK

I'm Akina Hiizumi.

Nice to meet you.

I am Kyosuke Kishi.

Nice to meet you.

That's the director of this office.

Don't call me "that."

Oh, is she the new resident?

But if something comes up, feel free to come here.

. . . . .

I'm the director, but also the only employee.

Hiizumi Li
Counseling
Office

Hello! I heard we're getting a new resident today.

どや BUZZ BUZZ BUZZ

Oh, she's already here.

I'm Kotoha Isone! Nice to meet you!

I'm Touka Kishi.

I'm Ao Nanami.

Oh...

UM, nice to meet...

...you...

MUMBLE MUMBLE

...Nice to meet you.

Oh.

Your bandages... we should rewrap them.

WHAP

Uh...

Don't worry.

GRIN

...

...that's the deal,

so you could stay here for a while.

Make yourself at home.

Okay. I'm going.

All right. Thanks.

So...

Yeah, don't be reserved.

That's my line.

わ
''
CHATTER
わ
''
CHATTER

し
ん
SST

Hey! Wait a Minute!

CRACKLE

Heh heh heh... this Old Maid battle has gone on for two months and 500 matches. It's reaching climax...

Currently in 1st place

Close 2nd

3rd place

Urg...

There's a crock right here!!

I think you heard "CROCK!" See?

I don't know what you're talking about!!

I heard the "CRACKLE!"

I know you read my mind right now!!

Don't!!

If I destroy this office now, this game would be nullified...

CRACK CRACK ボキボキ

How immature!!

SHOCK

Now which one could it be?

Then I'll do it, too!!

Joker joker joker joker joker joker joker joker!!

Welcome back.

It's rowdy.

I'M back!

BUZZ BUZZ

.....

Hey, you.

Come sit here.

Uh, yes.

So...

GULP

We're going to restrict your activity in this town.

...I'll be straightforward about it.

!

It's not that easy living in society.

So as long as you live in this town, you have to abide by our rules.

Unfortu-nately,

I'm not that gullible to trust someone I met today.

GRIP

.....

So this town is no differ-ent...

I under-stand.

I will... obey you.

Good.

Then...

I've already arranged it for you.

TAP

...For starters, go to school!

Huh?

.....

That's it!

You could earn your tuition there!

And I found you a place to live and work.

.....

Although these guys use theirs too much.

You don't need me to be locked up? You're not forbidding me to use my powers?

You should be careful.

Nope.

That's it.

Why?

Uh, that's it?

Oh, okay.

Oh, geez..

You said you're going to restrict my activity, so I thought...

There, there.

What? I'M the bad guy here?

SNIFF

You'll be okay.

Hime, you shouldn't have said it like that! Anyone would be scared!

But instead of doing that, we want the demons to live in this town as an individual.

It's nothing to shove the demons that come to this town and hide them somewhere.

By interacting with others, "proof that you existed" will form.

Those are the words of the former owner... the founder of this office.

...

Who was my grand-father.

ごん

That's right. Rather than a chain, think of it as red string.

We're not going to chain you down.

That's right. It's not like restriction, but more like, "let's get chummy with us and the town residents!"

Hee hee...is that true?

Oh, really?

That's not right.

DRIP

I thought I would be...

But gee...

...that's in the way.

It is. You have a cute face. Don't hide it.

FLAP FLAP

Oh...

What's your name?

Huh?

Here.

It's made by cutting off a piece of the Seven Pillars.

I had Yae-san make a replace-ment for that.

But I'M a Jiang Shi, so I can't live if I take this off.

Oh yeah.

...That's a good name.

WRITE WRITE

Oh, UM...it's Rin.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

People could remember your name easily too.

PLOP

RIN

Here.

Oh...

Thank you very much...

RIN

Then you're a resident starting today!

Shoot, I fell asleep...

It's already early evening...

I wonder if Hime-san is mad.

But she's so weird to ask me to deliver to the district meeting room....

Oh, a text message

Miss

Good Morning!

It's Morning!!

Oh, Ao-chan sent me a message, too.

PEEP

And Kotoha-chan.

PEEP

Oops. My boss...

PEEP

I should go apologize later.

From: Hime
Subject: My...

Ramen...

PEEP

PEEP

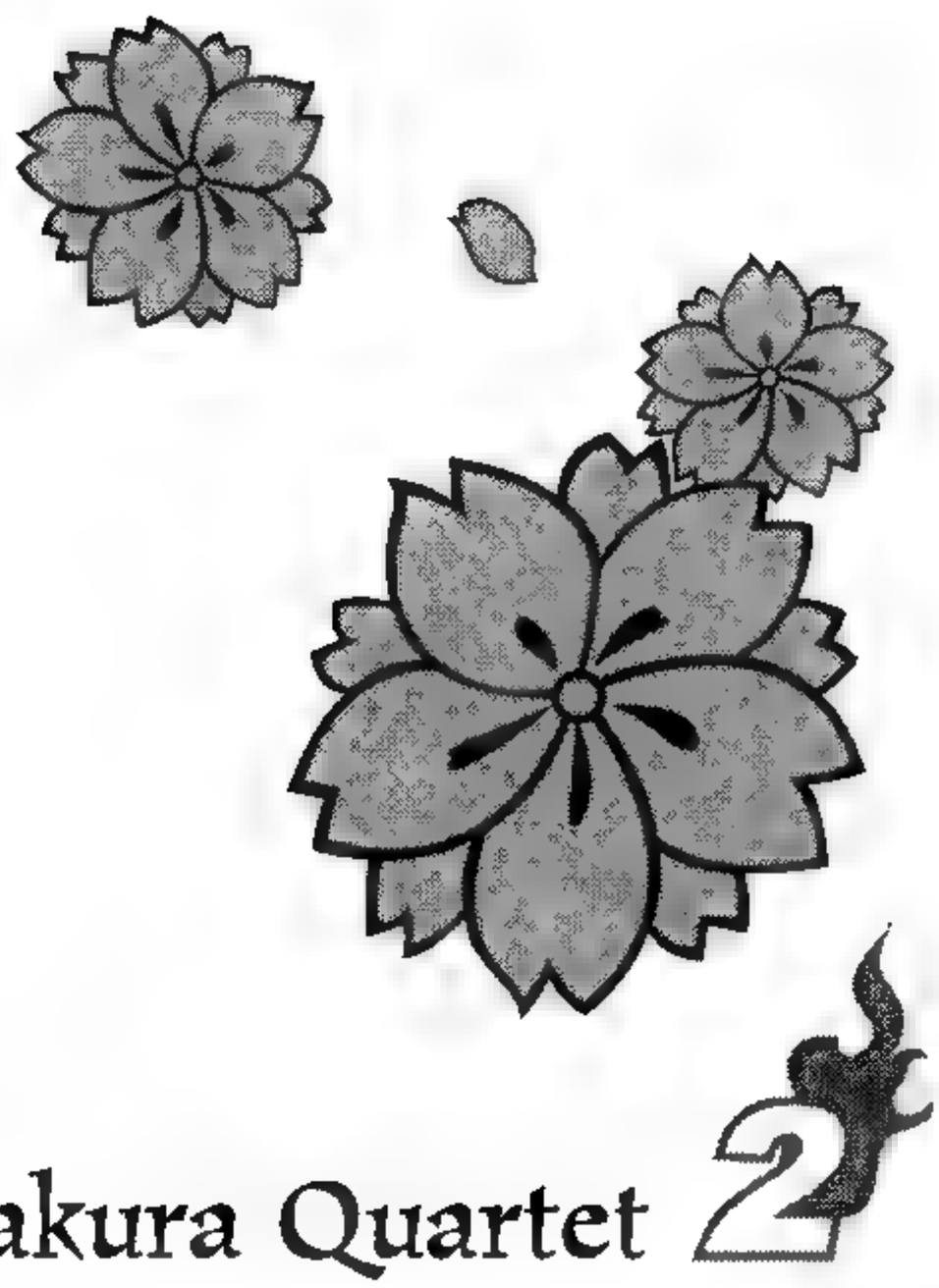
PEEP

Okay!

Then I'll work hard today, too!

And maybe I'll give them a new dish as an apology, too.

9th Night: Your Name Is END



Yozakura Quartet 2

2 Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

Age: 15

Hobbies:
eating at various places

Favorites

Food:
dumplings

Music:
cymbals

Comedian:
Kirin

Uchi-P Member:
Megu no Yasu

Little-Known Fact:
Although she is a Jiang Shi, she ages.

Rin
-san

Uh, hello, everyone!

It was busy during the beginning of spring and we couldn't go flower viewing,

so I thought we should have a rewarding party for the office...

Can you hear me in the back?

CHATTER

t..

t..

CHATTER

...but for some reason the party has become huge.

10th Night: Cherish the Moment

Look, everyone brought food, too.

Well, I'M thankful for that.

Phew

Well, I don't care, really.

SLURP ずずる

Don't be so rigid.

Gotcha.

We're playing pretend. It's water, so you can drink it.

So come on, drink up!!

The office does do a lot for us!

It's the bottle she always carries around.

Whoa, whoa.

Uh...

SLIIIIDE ず" ず" ず"

HM?

Chug! Chug! Chug!

Mina, the inside of the bottle today...

BLECH!

Under age

Pure rice wine daiginjo, "Kiku Hime!"

It's a real treat!!

What are you doing? What a waste!

Why is a kid like you drinking this!?

Idiots!

Even if I'm a mix of a vampire and a mermaid, I get sick of just blood and water!!

I need to quench the thirst in my life!!

Then drink Milk or something!

DMC

Urgh...

DIZZY

DIZZY

I can't take alcohol!

THUD

Akina-san!

Hmph.

How pathetic. Taken down by alcohol...

GULP

You get drunk because your spirit is weak.

HMM.

SWING

SWING

There are people like that.

Oh, he's drunk from coke.

Listen, Touka. It's times like these when a strong spirit prevails...

Onii-chan!

LECTURE LECTURE

MUNCH

MUNCH

MUNCH

MUNCH

The poor chicks! At least I'll eat them so your souls won't go to waste!!

Oh my gosh, she's a crying drunk and an eating drunk!?

And who brought this pile of boiled eggs anyway!?

FADED

I'm completely drunk!!

Ugh...

I have to work hard!

...I have to be the tsukkomi today!!

You're usually the boke.

Onii-chan and Akina-san are passed out. That means...

GASP は

...

I see... so how are things with you in that aspect, Shidou-kun?

That's right, since there are so many girls here...

Huh?

Well, this isn't bad once in a while.

Stop it, Yae-san...

A high school girl!

So how's Kotoha-chan?

ZUI

Just like Mina said, life needs to be quenched.

SHOCK

I see.

SHINY SHINY

I like girls!

Only girls!!

Sorry!

HMM...

Shidou, bring more alcohol!

I didn't expect anything, but she could've been more tactful...

Stop eating already!

MUNCH MUNCH MUNCH

What, what, what are you...

Urgh!!

GULP

So what's going on with you and Akina, eh?

Rin-chan, I want more ramen!

Well, I'm a...

...Menkui!!

Yeah, that's right.

A Menkui?

Well, I'm a Menkui, so...

But he's not that bad looking...

How sad...

SWISH SWISH

Shoot!

I washed all of my summer clothes today!

You're really crying a lot today.

WAAAAAAH

But...

...aren't you hot?

You don't have the summer version of your uniform?

UM...

Thanks for the food.

STARE

HMMM...

And...

What a perv...

All right! Do it! Do it!!

CLAP CLAP

HM? Sure. I'll lend you this.

What she's wearing is making me hot!!

I want Hime to wear a nurse outfit!! She'd be really cute in it!!

You suggested it for your selfish reasons!?

KABOOM!

As SOMething!

...I want to dress up, too!!

Yeah...

Chang-ing.

Yes.

Give it to her, Mariabell.

How many do you have?

You're pre-pared, Maria-bell!!

How's Hime?

GASP
は？

This is pretty good.

Wow.

Satisfied

It's great!!!!

I can make money off of this!!

Kotoha-chan...

ROAR
ギラ

Summer clothes are so thin...

SOB
SOB

It's a little chilly...

This is really cute.

Everyone, please stop her...hey! Don't start a fashion show here!!

When did you all change?

Shortcut; Microphone!

I'll express My feelings in a song!!

Stop it, you drunk!

Oh, My.

That group!!

Look! They're doing something weird!!

Oh, Kotoha is singing.

Let's join.

I knew it was too quiet!

Where's Ao-chan? Oh! She was the first to be knocked out!!

SLUMP

Z Z Z

CHATTER

CHATTER

Huh?

Thanks to everyone here!!

Your tsukkomi got better.

むく
WAKE UP

……

What was this gathering for?

どんちゃん
ROWDY

どんちゃん
ROWDY

わあ
BUZZ

わあ
BUZZ

Oh, the poor duckies!

Thousand-year-old egg

MUNCH MUNCH

Clean up thoroughly!

...

ZZZZ すやすや

Hey, Akina.

I'm sorry I fell asleep, Yuhi-san.

Yes, she's very helpful.

Is Yae doing okay?

Sit.

...I hope not too much.

I keep telling her not to get too involved.

But it's no surprise Yae-san is the way she is.

Don't get involved, don't be too far. Just watch and protect.

That is really what a land god is supposed to do.

But she's not dignified at all.

.....

Nope.

Did you say some-thing?

But you also came to our party...

Until the Seven Pillars "bloom."

How long do you think we have?

.....

It might be earlier than that.

It's earlier than expected.

I'm sure about a year... until next spring.

...it is a little loose.

The border between the two dimensions.

Re-cently.

Well...

If you can tell that, you're pretty good.

Oh.

Well, you have a little bit of time.

Do what you can.

Only god knows what will happen.

There's "him" who wants them to bloom.

True.

And there's "you" who tries to stop it.

Worst case, we could sacrifice this entire town.

Right?

...

Thank you.

For always thinking about us.

...

Either way, I'm not getting involved.

I'll lend Yae, so do as you wish.

We're leaving, Mariabell.

PINCH むに

Yes.

Hmph.

It's not for you guys.

ZWISH

I've been watching the cherry blossoms of this town every year.

For over 200 years.

If I don't see it next year, I'll be disappointed.

That's all there is to it.

See you.

...I'll do my best.

Well, I guess I'll do what I can do.

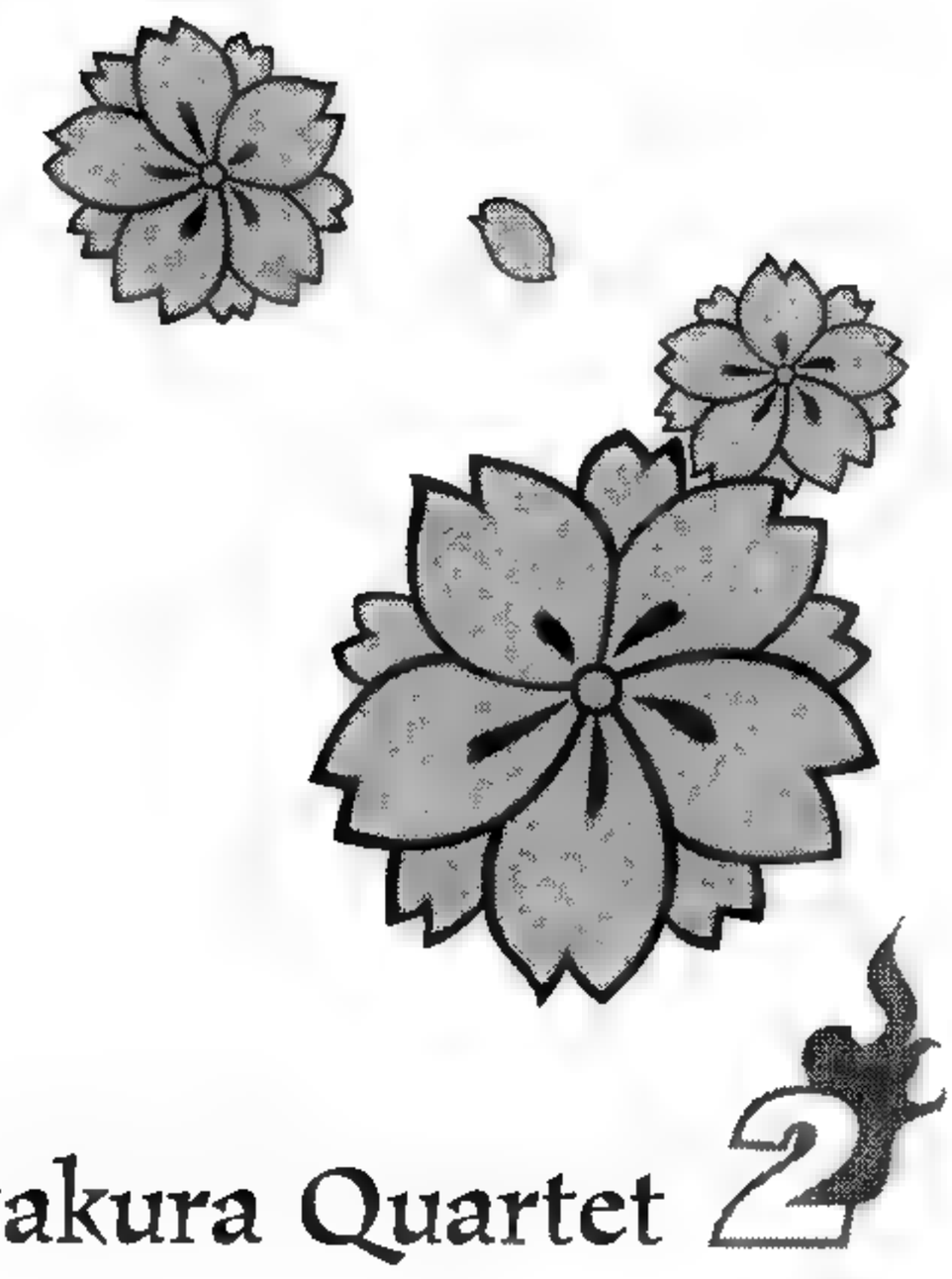
I want to see it next year, too.

This town's cherry blossoms.

But I should take care of what I need to do first.

ZZZ

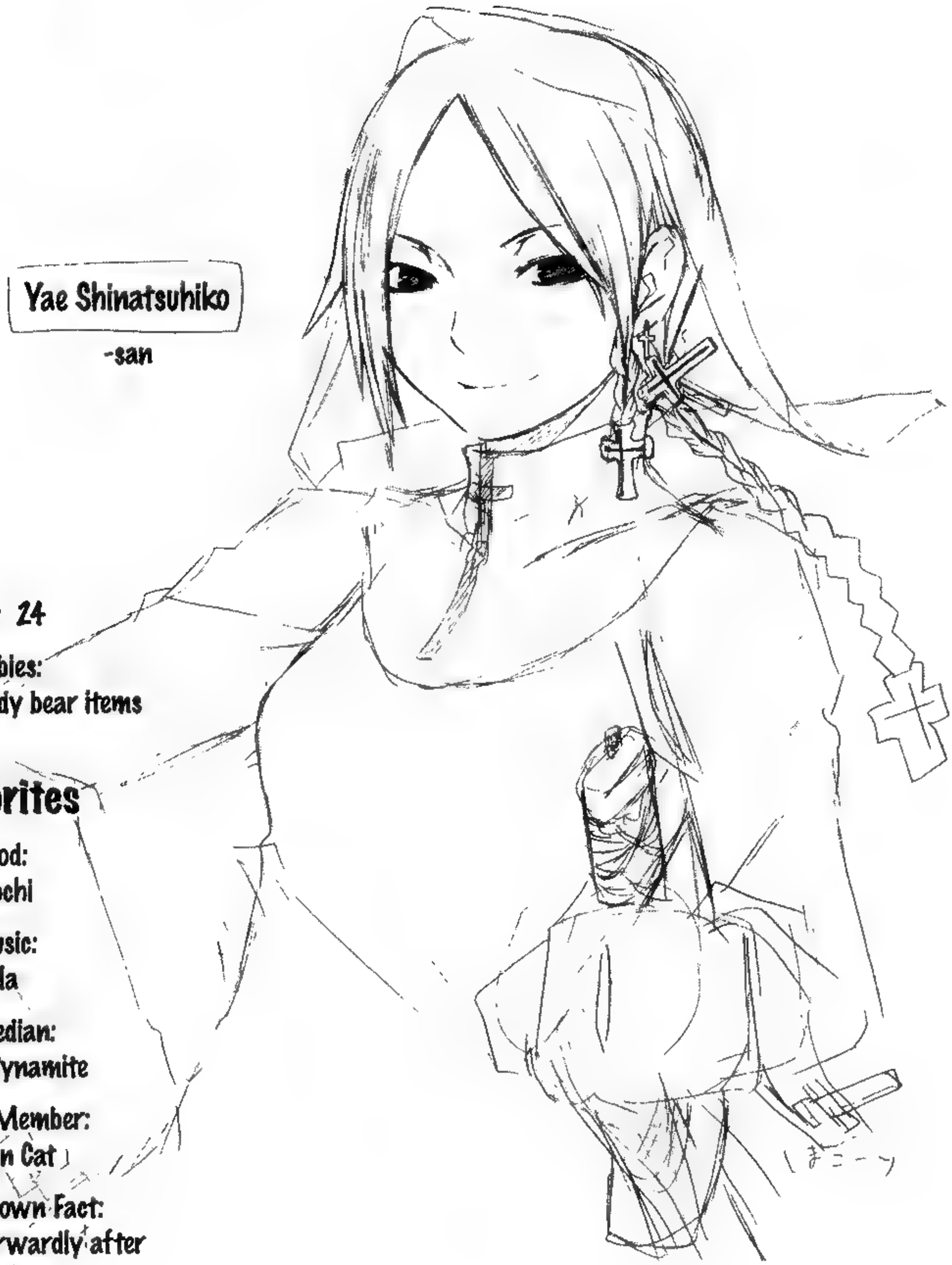
These drunks.



Yozakura Quartet 2

Primary Stages of Yozakura Quartet

2



Yae Shinatsuhiko -san

Age: 24

Hobbies:
collecting teddy bear items

Favorites

Food:
mochi

Music:
ala

Comedian:
Tokyo Dynamite

Uchi-P Member:
Baron Cat

Little-Known Fact:
Is straightforwardly after Kotoha.

"Do not fail to train every day."

"A healthy spirit resides in a healthy body."

We are training every day, just as your grandmother instructed us...

.....

You're making no sense at all.

Please wake up.

DAZED ぼー

Don't get cocky! I wasn't sleeping for your sake!!

TWITCH ぴく

Oh!

...but you're sleeping.

11th Night: Thorny Road (Part 1)

Yah!

SWING

SWING

Yah!

Ninth Formation, "Cloud Slice!"

WOOSH

VOOSH

VOOSH

Twenty-ninth Formation, "Eight Colors!"

Fourteenth Formation, "Fire Extinguisher!"

SWING

The last formation...

VOOSH

Ninetieth Formation, "Enclosure!"

BAM

Forty-seventh Formation, "Heavenly Heart!"

ズドー

Ow!

WHAM

HMM...

TWIRL!!

"Giant Firework!!"

...

But this is the formation grandma taught me, so it should be right.

I do think the last formation is wrong.

? ?

...

It's probably the formation to use this spear.

The spear that has been inherited for generations. The proof of being mayor, this

"Dragon Spear."

Darn.

I cannot allow it. There is no emergency.

GRAB

Maybe I'll understand if I use it...

Proof of being mayor...

...

Listen, Hime.

Yes.

There are three things you mustn't forget.

First, you must be loved by your residents.

Next, you must be loved by the town.

...you must be loved by the dragon.

And last...

This is what is needed to be mayor.

Loved by the dragon...

I got it, grandma!

For that, you need to constantly improve yourself.

What is the matter? You spaced out.

Oh. It's nothing.

RUSTLE RUSTLE

Loved by the dragon... does it mean to fully use the Dragon Spear?

Hime-sama?

Besides, Hime-sama. The formations are not for the body.

キラン SHINE

ナグナグ NAG NAG

ギギギ PULL...

THUNK

It's to train the spirit...

Could it be...

How insane to shoot an arrow at a person.

How chic to use an arrow to deliver a note.

What does it say?

ドキドキ BADUM BADUM

カサカサ RUSTLE

DOING DOING

You're right.

.....

A storm is coming...

HEE HEE

I knew it...

Lunch is ready!

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG CLANG ガン ガン

Lunch is ready... What's wrong, Ao?

?

?

CLICK CLICK カチ カチ

The TV's not that old... you think it's the antenna?

Sob...

I wonder why?

I can't watch Uchi-P...

The TV's not working well.

They show it during the day?

Let's eat lunch.

Kotoha, can you call the electrician?

Okay.

Red-san...

SPLISH SPLASH

DING DONG

Hey.

Hey, you!

WIDE WIDE

Hello!

Yes.

I have my hair tied, too.

Oh, you're wearing summer clothes.

But it's hot, so shouldn't you take off your scarf?

Really?

Yours is cute, too, Kotoha.

You're so lucky your summer uniform is so cute.

Ours doesn't look too different from our usual ones.

PIT PAT

TUG

...

?

BAM

WOOSH

Could that be...

Yeah...

An arrow with a note?

RUSTLE RUSTLE

Oh yeah.

HM?

I got this in the morning.

Here.

THUD

Hello!!

Ack!

It's been a long time, onee-sama!!

Long time no see, everyone!!

Oh no! Kohime!?

Uh, yeah.

She's here!

Thanks.

I'm glad you look well.

So anyway.

She's going to run for mayor in the neighboring town.

I see...

So this is what I say...

Please teach me a lot, onee-sama!

Uh, yeah...

Great People of the World

That is right! I'm already nine years old! The same age you became mayor, onee-sama!

So I came here to learn from my great sempai and cousin!

Then farewell, everyone!

Poor Hime...

ジャキーン

TADA

Well!

Uh, sure.

It's time for patrolling. Shall we go, onee-sama?

Dere tsun tsun

Sigh...

Tsun tsun dere dere

PIT PAT

All right.

GRAB

Oh my, it's been a while.

Hey, it's Kohime-chan!

potatoes
100g
50 yen

Oh.

Thank you!

Thank you!

It's good!

MUNCH

MUNCH

We just got these apples. Have some!

THROW

And this, while you're at it.

THROW

And this, too.

THROW

But, gee...

An attraction.

What's that?

THROW

MUNCH

MUNCH

THROW

THROW

MUNCH

Really. You're just like her.

I'm looking forward to your future.

...

You're looking more and more like your grandmother!

Huh?

Really?

That's right. Do better than your grandmother.

Work hard, just like you grandmothe

Let's go, Kohime.

Yes, onee-sama.

We're looking forward to it!

I'll do my best.

Huh?

Onee-sama, look!

Kohime!

JUMP

Wow!

Tenzaki Pottery

DASH

Blue Clouds

Tenzaki Pottery

It's Jinroku Gramps' store...

What a lovely bowl!

Wow...

...

づ"ウ"ン VROOM

づ"ウ"ン VROOM

Are you done? Let's go.

CREEP...

ジ...

CHARMED

I would love to eat ramen with this...

カ"チャ

CLICK

...

Kohime!

PLOP

Oh!

ROOOOOOAAAAARRRRR

What the heck!?

ZWISH

HMph...

TA-DA

No browsers needed! Leave!

Jinroku Gramps!

What's going on?

TAP

What!?

And stay away!

If you're leaving, I'll let her go!

TIL

WAAH

Put her down! You freaky gimmick gramps!

1F°

3

DROP

Sheesh...

WHACK

YUK!

WHUMP

Whoa!

Just leave them alone. It's not like you have other customers.

Argh!

Grandma Kiku!

You've grown a lot, Kohime-chan.

Master-piece? Bah.

I don't want some kid to wreck my masterpiece!

Hurry and leave!

How dare you treat a small child like this!

That's right! How dare you!

I can't believe it. It's so pretty...

BONK

It doesn't even sell!

Urgh...

Really?

Damn...

And it's really pretty!

Yes! I know it was made with great care.

You understand how good that piece is?

...

!

GRIP

It sure is pretty good...

Hmph...

!

Crude ones aren't allowed to touch! You worthless mayor!

WOOSH

CLICK!

Whoa! That scared me!

You're crude, you're selfish...

You're nothing like your grandmother!!

Urh!

You're a piece of crap compared to the previous mayor, your grandmother!

I don't approve of you being the mayor!

Don't compare me to my grandmother!!

Gr...

Hurry up and go eat your lunch! I'm going to take it away if you don't!

Damn it...

That's enough!

WHACK

ACK!

DOWNHEARTED

...

Everyone keeps saying "grandmother, grandmother."

しょんぼり

DOWNHEARTED

...

Oh...yeah.

All of the residents are waiting for you to come!

Let's go, onee-sama!

HOP

We still have patrolling to do!

I can't believe I have to run against a kid.

It's ridiculous!

Hmph!

We're walking.

ZWISH

Chaaarge!

.....

I think your win is a sure thing. You don't have to do this.

Mayor.

I'm sorry, sir.

Keep quiet, Shinozuka!

I want to be sure I don't lose!

You'll get your town and this town at the same time.

Every-thing is set.

Of course.

Hey! Are you sure I can trust you?

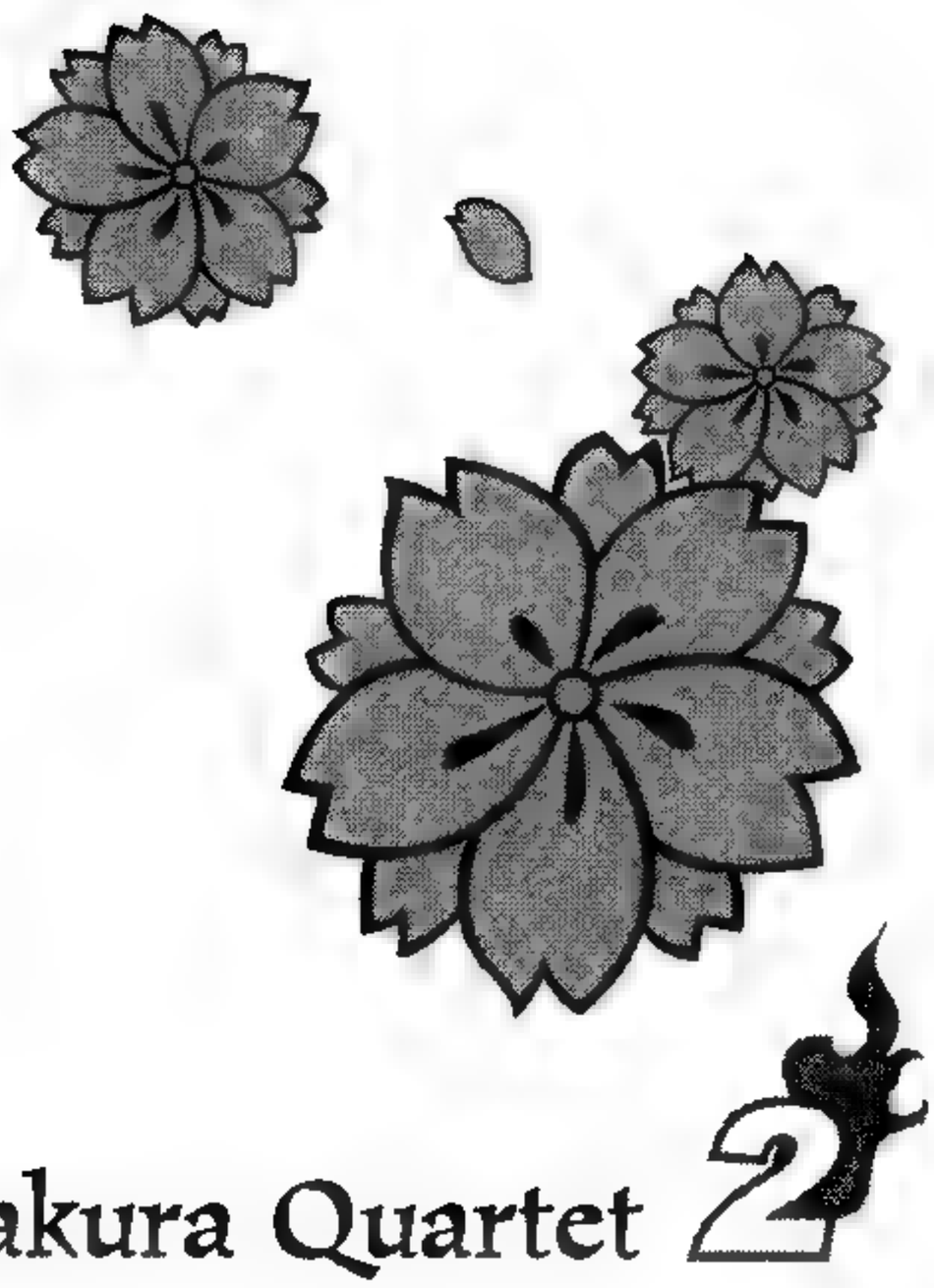
!

That's right. We need to be doubly sure.

CLICK

Just leave it to Me.

We'll be finished by tonight.



Yozakura Quartet 2

one year

The mysterious old man and the mayor of the neighboring town loom in Sakurashin Town.

Hime and the gang suffer consequences from the sudden attack. The mastermind behind the plot is revealed.

There is one year until the Seven Pillars bloom...

Until the Seven Pillars bloom—

Countdown...

Yozakura Quartet 3

Liaozhai Zhiyi

A collection of supernatural stories with ghosts, demons, and vixen spirits. Originally these tales were passed on orally, but they were compiled by Pu Sung-ling during the Qing dynasty. There are over 431 stories in the collection.

"The Beauty in the Book"

Once there was a man who loved to read. One day, he was reading in his library with a bookmark depicting a beautiful lady. As he stared at the picture, the lady stood up and smiled at him. In order to make the man take a break from reading, the lady taught the man how to play the Japanese harp and cards.

(Featured in *Monthly Shonen Sirius* February 2007 Special issue on 'Ghost Stories in the Winter")

MUMBLE

MUMBLE

SPACED OUT

MUMBLE

MUMBLE

WRITE WRITE

HM?

MUMBLE MUMBLE

FWOOM

Studying for a test must be tiring.

Yeah, although she's studying on her work time...

Well, it's okay because we're not busy.

POOF

POOF

POOF

It's Prince Shotoku! You Materialized Prince Shotoku!

Huh?

Ask me anything

Have him leave!

Whoa! Hey, you're materializing clay pots!!

Huh? I guess so.

But I guess you can materialize anything if you read out loud.

It's tiring, though.

CRACK ボキ

How danger-ous...

Are you getting enough sleep?

Oops, I did it again...

LICK LICK

DELETE

Hime isn't that stressed about her tests.

She studies on a daily basis.

Even though she's busy...

No can do.

Please!

So if I give you this magazine, the comedians would come out and do a show in front of me?

Warai Meshi

How scary.

You're going to eat it, so no.

Please do Mine!

Hidagyu

That's illegal!!

Is this for the black market!?

Then can you materialize some organs?

Medical Book

Was Visiting

How's this?

Ooh

This?

Then this!

Hey! Stop bothering me!

Cooking

CURRY

DEEK

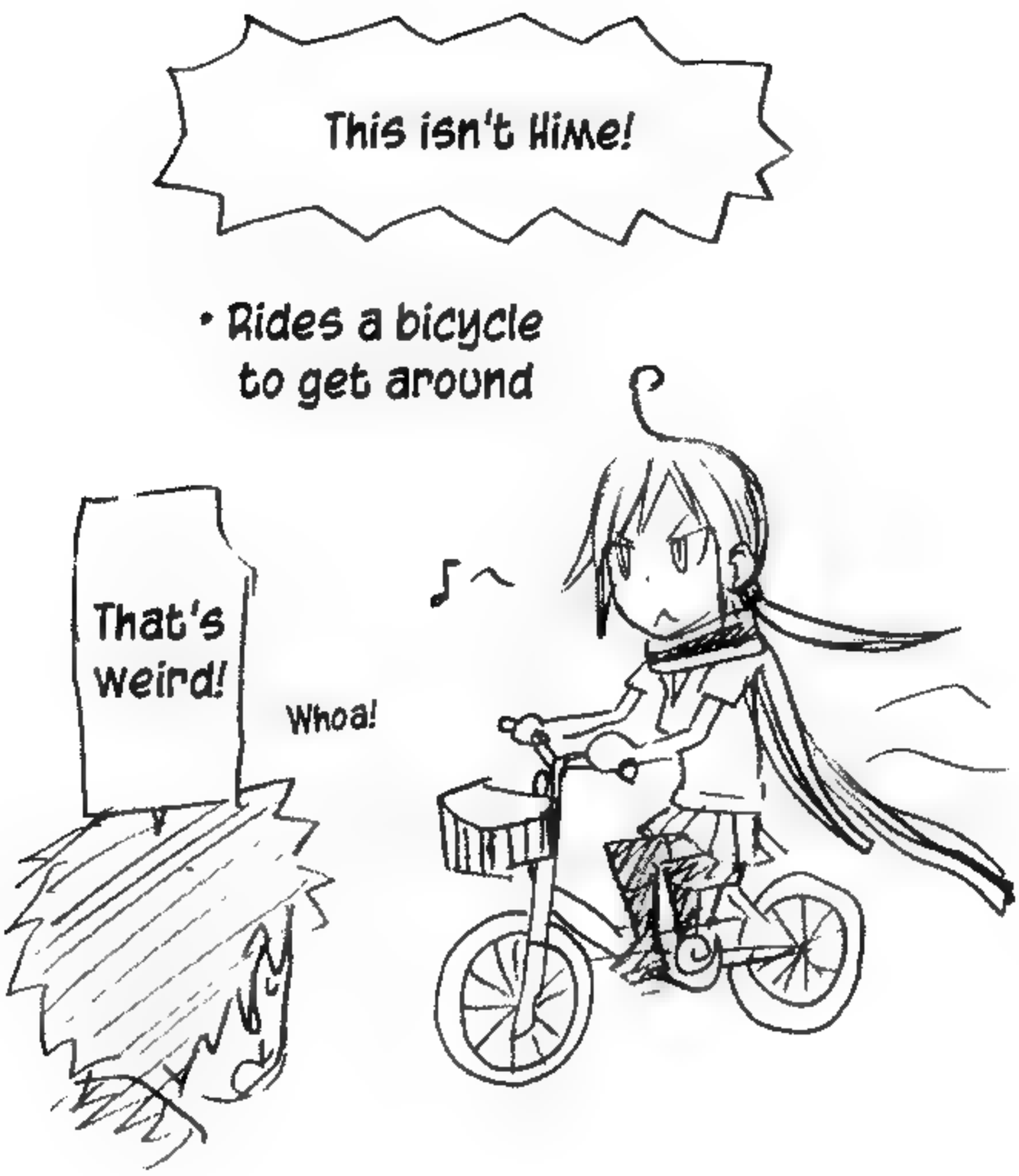
Huh? What's this?

Pornography

Don't make a girl read this out loud!

How about it?

PORN



Yozakura Quartet 2

Illustration for the cover of *Monthly Shonen Sirius* November 2006 issue

Illustration for 1st anniversary of magazine Monthly Shonen Jump (July 2006 issue)

This isn't Hime!

- Normal black socks

Yawn...

Akina-kun!

Hey, Kyosuke!

Morning!

Are you used to our school yet?

I couldn't defeat the boss...

I'm so sleepy...

I stayed up late playing video games.

Oh!

CHATTER CHATTER

It's been a month, so I guess so... Huh?

I see...

She's so dignified and awesome. A man's man!

HM?

TADA

Hey! Your skirt is too short! Go fix it!!

She's Touka-kun, who became the head of the discipline committee.

She's probably doing her rounds.

Hey, you! Close up your jacket!

WHIP

Huh?

Oh, right.

WAKE UP

Watch where you're going...

Whoa!

ACK!!

THUD

GRAB

WOBBLE

Is that the way you answer? Eh!?

Hey, calm down...

Eek!

What's this?

Pillows?

GRAB

Huh?

Akina-kun!

DASH

KAPOW

Agh!

What do you think you're doing!?

Akina Hiizumi, I won't forget this...

I'll clean your act up!!

はあはあ…
PANT PANT

GRIND

Urgh.

What humiliation!

Hey!!

True...

I think this is a good plotline.

Bonus Manga

Thank you very much!

I wrote another stupid manga as an extra. And this is the afterword manga.

Hello. Thank you for buying *Yozakura Quartet* volume 2!!

We don't use our powers.

It's a boring volume.

...What can I say?

So this volume 2...

I'm left out again?

PUSH PUSH

This time, we'll leave Ao here...

Chinese Cuisine "Scarlet Lizard"

Or else it'd become a thin book.

I stuffed it with everything I could think of.

...I had to fill in those extra twenty plus pages with something else.

This spicy ramen is good.

SLURP SLURP

What that means is...

It doesn't fit!

...Huh?

Pagination is like a blueprint

That's because when I was working on the pagination to fit the story I wanted to put in this volume...

One, two, three...

Part 1.
Plot

For this volume, I'd like to introduce how *Yozakura Quartet* is made each month.

I see.

Well.

Now that it's the second volume, I think I got used to this creating a manga business.

My height is getting shorter, isn't it?

That was delicious

First I write the plot down.

I don't start this after I finish the episode from the previous month.

Instead, I start to think about it while I work on the previous episode or during free time. So by the time I finish my previous episode, I have something.

Bath

I think other monthly manga artists are like this, too.

And I mail that to my editor, and if there are fixes, I fix them.

I'll make the draft for the rough copy, the panel splits, and simple characters and make the blueprint for the manga.

It is said that manga is funny "at the point of the storyboard," so this is the hardest stage.

I get stuck many times...

...so when that happens...

HMMM

Part 2.
Story-
board

My body is tired but I can't sleep.

This is really the most tiring, mentally.

I went to Shibuya and back from my house.

That's a long walk!!

My record is walking for a whole night, about twenty kilometers.

How much do I walk? I walk until I get an inspiration.

I hear this is common.

I just start walking.

Although lately there aren't that many fixes.

There are red marks on almost all the pages and all the panels.

HEAVY...

After I complete it I send it to the editor. It comes back after the editor looks it over.

Bookstore "Sumiyoshi Books"

Research, research

I also go to the bookstore.

You really like Manga.

There are so many manga here.

I bought an arcade controller.

It's big.

So change of pace is important. That's when I play video games, watch movies, or listen to music.

10

1

They start at 1 pm, end at 10 pm

I start at eight in the morning.

I have to work on stuff to have them work on.

Once I'm about a third of the way done with the rough copy, my background assistants come in.

Fill-ins by Kyosuke and Akina

Hello!

You're still working alone?

So now I'm finally in the rough copy stage.

I draw slow, so I don't have anything to give to my assistants yet.

Part 3. Rough copy

Part 4.
Inking

My editor always praises the sexy scenes.

This one's really good!

Here is where I give my editor a copy of the rough so that he can type up the text for the lines.

Please praise the other parts, too!

EDITOR

My rough copy is finished.

And when the background is about half-way done...

Take that!

About the time I'm halfway through inking...

We're done!

...the background assistants are done.

At this point I'm not thinking straight because of lack of sleep. So I make many mistakes.

Why does this Ao have black hair?

Now I enjoy using them.

When I was only an illustrator, I didn't use dipping pens so it took a while to get used to it.

WRITE WRITE

Scanning it into the computer.
Fixing.
Coloring in blacks.
Screen tone fill-ins.
He does all of this for thirty pages every month in one and a half days.
He's superfast.

He's going to catch up with me!

My finishing assistant comes in when the background assistants leave.

Hello!

By the way, I'M still inking.

Filling in

Part 5.
Finish-
ing

I send that to the printers and I'm really done.

U-sama, I'm sorry I'm always late.

I'm done!!

That was sooo tiring!!

And finally, I do the gradient tones, other tones, splash pages, etc...

And inking is done.

Take that!

At the same time, the finishing assistant is done, too.

What!?

Didn't you check!?

I thought it was Ao!

Oh, Hime went that time?

I hope he just forgot because we were drinking!

CLANG

By the way, we were talking about the third episode (the later half of the story between Ao and Junta), where Junta's father was talking about Hime...

It's very un-Hime-like for her to ride a bullet train.

Huh?

EDITOR

BBQ '88 (Paru Paru)*

Yay!

Then I celebrate finishing and talk about the next episode with my editor while eating lots of meat.

EDITOR

I'm sorry it's going slow.

I will do my best, so please check out the next volume, too!

The story is going to really start moving in volume 3.

Please check it out!

So anyway.

Ramen "Kakushin"

I see.

I am the type to worry about how my manga is received.

This is good.

SLURP

Then I'll talk a bit more...

I knew it!

It's a printing issue.

Again.

EDITOR

I had more pages!

We'll search it and go see.

So if you have a website or a blog, please let me know what you think of *Yozakura Quartet*.

The pep talks help me, too.

Thank you.

I like reading reviews and comments on my readers' blogs.

Sometimes there are people who go and eat at the restaurants I introduce in this afterword!

Seriously!?

How easygoing!

Okay, let's do that.

Please have the design ready by Monday!

CLANG

EDITOR

That caption was decided when I was talking to my editor about the cover design.

Huh?

I was only kidding.

Let's feature the town song on the obi.

HA HA HA

EDITOR

By the way, the most comments I got regarding volume 1 were:

- The obi (both positive and negative)
- The story was hard to understand

I'm sorry, I'll try my best to improve.

Whoa!

"Manga done by illustrators aren't interesting."

GASP

There is a saying among manga readers...

Could it be...

?
Why?

When I started *Yozakura Quartet*, I had many people asking if I was going to be okay.

Oh yeah.

Am I just going to be an illustrator who loves manga but can't create good manga? Or can I move up to becoming a manga artist? I hope you stay with me as I work on this.

WAKE UP

I love manga, so I will do my best so that my readers don't say this.

Sheesh...

Of course, there are so many fun manga done by illustrators out there.

This is not my opinion, but it's true that there is that feeling among some manga readers.

BONK

BONK

Please read volume 3, too! See you then!

Thank you to my assistants Amagi-san, Anri-san, Oishi-san, and Kato-san. Thank you to Ryogo Narita-san and Teru Arai-san for Marketing. Thank you to Heaven for making a cocktail named "Yozakura Quartet." (Please don't drink if you're under age!) Thank you to my editor Kimura-san, etc. And to my readers! Thank you very much!

I was told by my friend that the manga is more interesting without the three main girls...(how sad!)

Okay, so this is really the end.

See you!

About the Author

Suzuhito Yasuda's cute and colorful character designs, sharp linework, and unique design talents have made him a popular artist in the fields of both manga and novel illustration. He has illustrated such Japanese novels as *Kamisama Kazoku*, *Scarlet Sword*, and *Maid Machinegun*. He has also worked on the manga series *Pinky:Comic* and *Ebony & Ivory*; *Yozakura Quartet* is his latest work.

His Preferred Tools:
PowerMAC G4 933Mhz
Apple studio display 17 TFT

PowerMAC G4 Cube
Apple Studio Display 17 CRT

Sony VAIO Notebook PCG542B

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Sakura, page 3

Sakura is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. "Yozakura" in the title refers to *sakura* at night or viewing *sakura* at night.

FamiTsu, page 5

FamiTsu is the biggest Japanese video game magazine. It introduces and reviews various video games. It covers DVDs, TV shows, and books, too.

Onii-chan, page 32

Onii-chan is an honorific for an "older brother."

Chidori, page 36

Chidori is a comedy duo made of Daigo and Nobu. They are from the Okayama Prefecture. Their name comes from the high school nickname of their neighborhood school. They are known for their street-punk style.

Uchi-P, page 36

Uchi-P is an abbreviated term for *Uchimura Produce*, a TV show featuring comedians doing comedy sketches.

Fukawa, page 36

Ryo Fukawa is a Japanese comedian, DJ, and musician. He is known for his logic jokes.

Okayama, page 36

Okayama is a prefecture located in the Chugoku region, which is the westernmost region of Honshu, the largest island of Japan. It borders the prefectures of Hiroshima, Tottori, and Hyogo.

Piko Piko hammer, page 37

Mina is using a *piko piko* hammer to hit Touka and Shidou. This is a toy hammer made out of plastic that makes a squeaky sound when it hits something.

ROCO, page 64

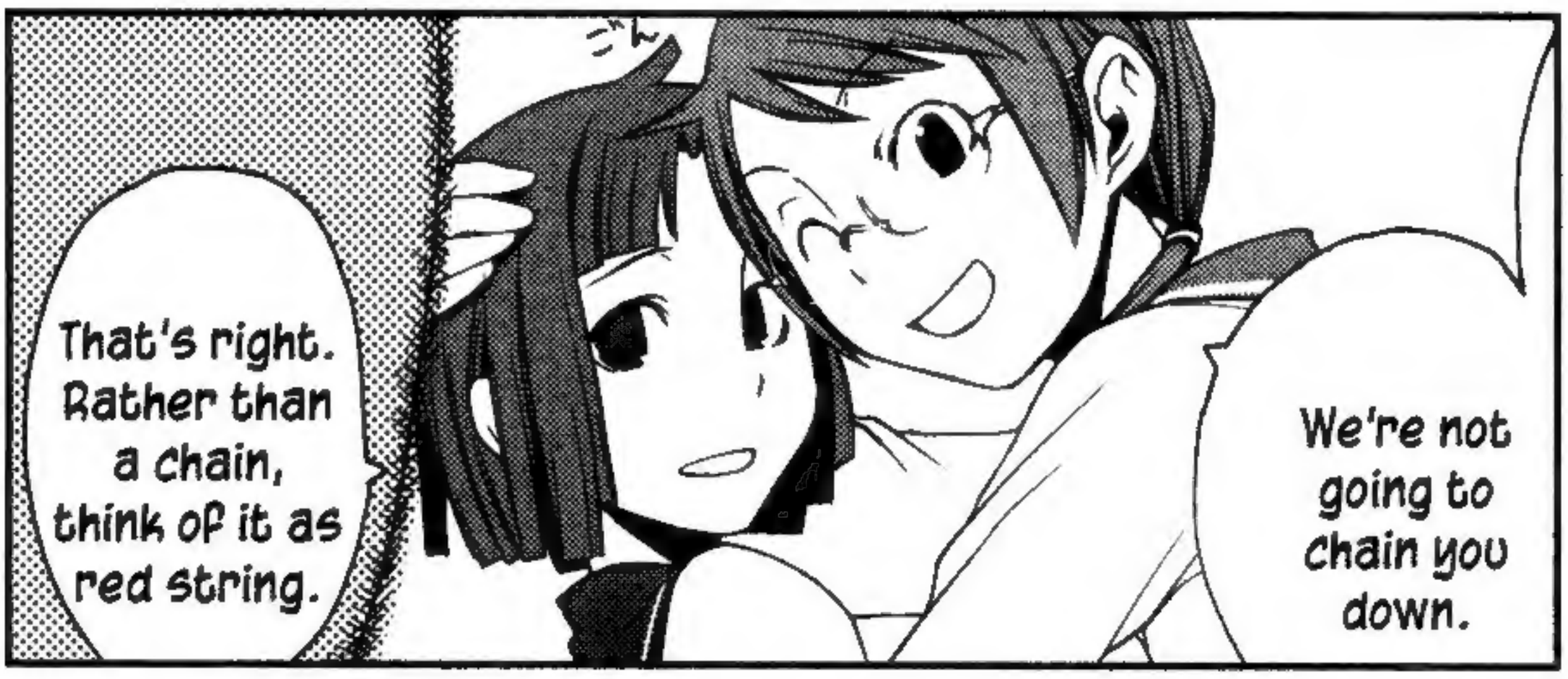
ROCO is a singer and songwriter. Her first album was promoted through small retail shops and then spread throughout Japan by word of mouth.

Golgo, page 64

Golgo is part of the comedy duo TIM. He is known for his short gags and using his body to make letters or kanji characters.

District mayor, page 93

In Japan, the head of any city, town, village, or ward/district is referred to as mayor. City mayors are known as *shichou*, town mayors as *chouchou*, village mayors as *sonchou*, and ward/district mayors as *kuchou*. In the Japanese text, Hime is *chouchou* of Sakurashin Town, and Yuhi is referred to as *kuchou*. It is not clear in the story which ward/district Yuhi is mayor of.



Red string, Page 116

Touka makes a reference to a red string, which refers to the Japanese belief that destined lovers are connected by a red string of fate. This red string is usually attatched to the left little fingers.

Jiang Shi, Page 118

A *Jiang Shi* is a Chinese demon. These zombies hop around and prey on living creatures to absorb their chi (living energy).

Kirin, page 124

Kirin is a comedy duo composed of Akira Kawashima and Hiroshi Tamura. Although their first impressions of each other were not good, they eventually became good friends and formed their group.

Megu no Yasu, page 124

Megu no Yasu is a nickname for Megumi Yasu, which she only uses when she's with Uchi-P. She is a swimsuit model and an actress.

Daiginjo Kiku Hime, page 129

Kiku Hime is a type of sake (Japanese rice wine) made in the Ishikawa Prefecture. It is one of the better known labels. *Daiginjo* means that the rice weight is polished to 40 percent or less. It has a milder aroma than other sake.

Tsukkomi and *boke*, page 131

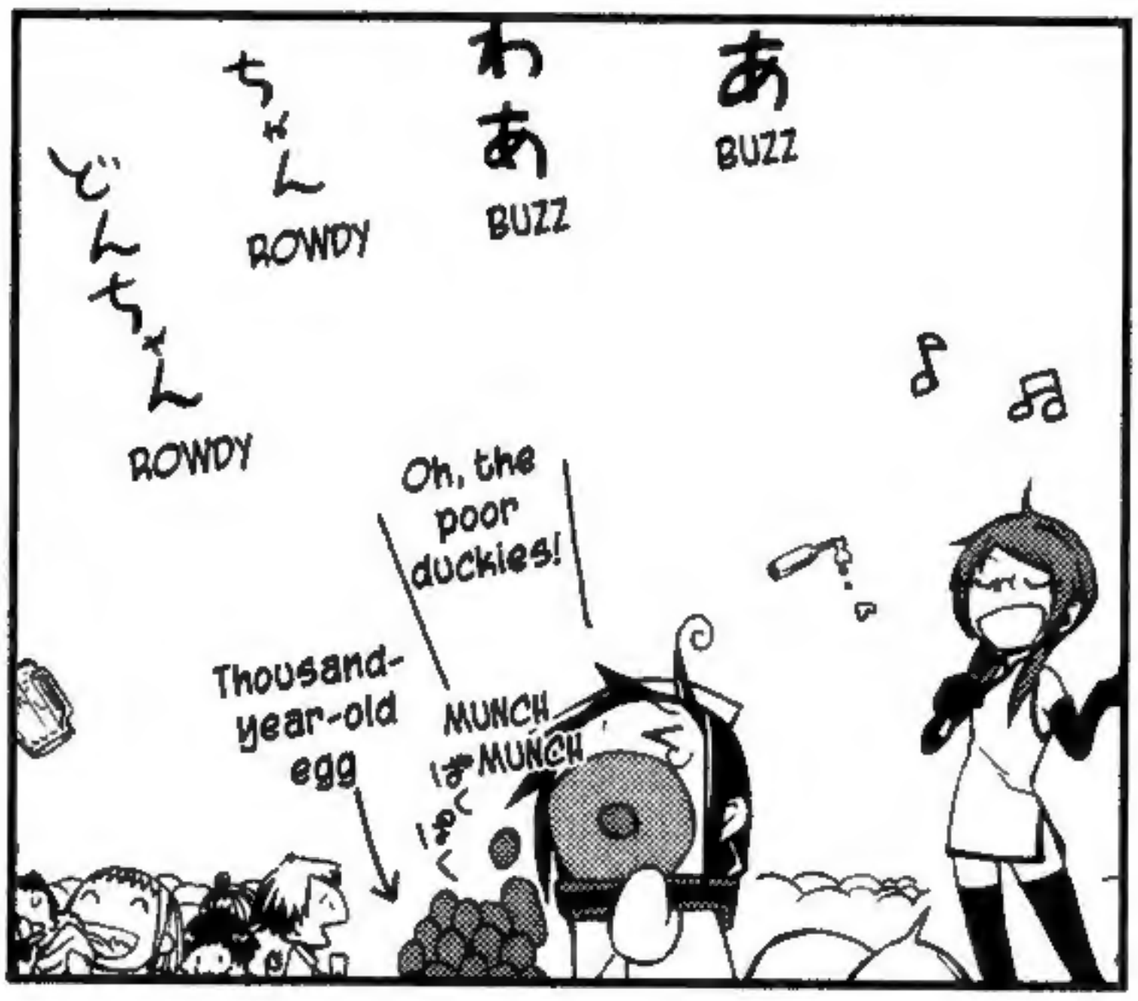
In Japanese comedy, the comedians are separated into a *tsukkomi* and a *boke*. A *boke* is a person who says something stupid or nonsensical, and the *tsukkomi* is the one who reacts. The *tsukkomi* is the straight man.

Menkui, page 133

Menkui means two different things depending on which characters are used. It typically describes someone who is a sucker for good-looking people. The "men" means "face" in this case. Kotoha mistook Hime's words for this meaning. In the next panel, Hime says it again with different characters. In this case, she is saying that she's a noodle eater. The "men" in this example means "noodles."

Thousand-year-old egg, page 137

The thousand-year-old egg is an ingredient in Chinese cuisine. It is made by preserving duck eggs in a mixture of lime and wood ash and placing them in jars or baskets. When the lime and wood ash mixture dries, the eggs are edible. The eggs are dark green in color and the texture is similar to gelatin.



ala, page 146

ala is a Japanese rock band. It's made up of six men and one woman. They belong to their own label, FREEKOUT RECORDS.

Tokyo Dynamite, page 146

Tokyo Dynamite is a comedy duo composed of Daisuke Matsuda and Jiro Hachimitsu. Matsuda is known for his surreal jokes, and Hachimitsu tends to react coldly to him.

Baron Cat, page 146

The Baron Cat is Hiroiki Ariyoshi's character on Uchi-P. He is naked and wears catlike makeup.

Red-san, page 157

Ao is referring to Red Yoshida, a Japanese comedian. He belongs to the duo TIM with his partner, Golgo Matsumoto. He is Ao's favorite comedian in the show Uchi-P.

Tsundere, page 162

Kohime is singing the town song, "Tsundere." Hime was teaching it to kids in volume 1. *Tsundere* is a term for a specific character trait. It describes a person who is standoffish or aloof but can become loveable and adorable in different situations. This term first started in Japanese dating simulation games, then moved on to anime and manga, but is now widely used in mass media.

Prince Shotoku, page 182

Prince Shotoku was a politician during the Asuka period (588–710) in Japan. He is one of the most famous figures in Japan, although he is surrounded with enough mystery that some say he never existed. He was depicted on the old 10,000 yen bill that was in circulation until 1984.

Warai Meshi, page 183

Warai Meshi is a Japanese comedy duo composed of Koji Nishida and Tetsuo. Both were separately part of different duos, but their partners couldn't keep up with their strong personalities and disbanded. Their name means "making a living with comedy."

Hidagyu, page 183

Hidagyu is a Japanese beef from cattle raised in Hida, a city in Gifu Prefecture. It's fatty and known to be expensive.

Obi, page 198

An *obi* is the loop of folded paper found on books that advertises the book. For manga, it is about 6 cm high and placed on the bottom of the book. In Japan, the *obi* on volume 1 said: "*Tsun! Tsundere! Tsun! Dere tsun tsun*!" which was the town song Hime was singing in that volume.